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THE

HISTORY

OF

LONDON,

AND ITS

Environs:

CONTAINING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN OF THE CITY;

ITS STATE UNDER THE ROMANS, SAXONS, DANES, AND NORMANS;

ITS RISE AND PROGRESS

To its Present State of Commercial Greatness:

INCLUDING

AN HISTORICAL RECORD OF EVERY IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING PUBLIC EVENT, FROM THE LANDING OF JULIUS CÆSAR TO THE PRESENT PERIOD; ALSO, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS ANTIQUITIES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND ESTABLISHMENTS; OF THE REVOLUTIONS IN ITS GOVERNMENT; AND OF THE CALAMITIES TO WHICH ITS INHABITANTS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT BY FIRE, FAMINE, PESTILENCE, &c.

LIKEWISE

AN ACCOUNT

OF ALL THE TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND COUNTRY,

WITHIN TWENTY-FIVE MILES OF LONDON.

BY THE LATE REV. HENRY HUNTER, D.D.

AND OTHER GENTLEMEN.

Embellished with Maps, Plans, and Views.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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A NEW MAP OF THE COU

HERTFORDSHIRE

BUCKINGHAM

SHIRE

MIDDLESEX

Tring
Wiggington
Aldbury
Berkhamsted
Chesham
Amersham
Chesham Boys
Latimers
Chenies
Little Missenden
W. Drake Esq.
Flaunden
Bovington
King Langley
Barn Elms
Watford
Rickmansworth
Whitfield Esq.
Chalfont St. Peters
Chalfont St. Giles
Hedgerley
Bulstrode
Duke of Portland
Park
Denham
Iver
Stoke Heath
Farnham
Farnham Common
Farnham Park
Stoke
Burnham
Wexham
Hillingdon
Uxbridge
Cowley
Hayes
Ickenham
Harefield
Hagfield
Common
Pinner
Rickmansworth
Redbourn
Gaddesden
Wheathampstead
Sandridge
St. Albans
St. Stephens
Earl Spencer
Shenley
Bushey
Stanmore
Edgware
Totteridge
Finchley
Hendon
Hornsey
Highgate
Hampstead
North Mims
South Mims
Northaw
Cuffley
Chipping Barnet
Hadley
Tittenhurst
Hatfield
Little Berkhamsted
Willesden
Norwood
Greenford
Apperton
Twyford
Ruislip
Ruislip Common
Paddington
Colnbrook
Harmondsworth
Heathrow
Hounslow
Isleworth
Brentford
Kensington
Chelsea
Hyde Park
Kensington Gardens
Paddington
Islington
Hackney
Stoke Newington
Tottenham
Edmonton
Enfield
Southgate
Barnet
Chipping Barnet
Hadley
Totteridge
Finchley
Hendon
Hornsey
Highgate
Hampstead
Willesden
Norwood
Greenford
Apperton
Twyford
Paddington
Ruislip
Ruislip Common
Colnbrook
Harmondsworth
Heathrow
Hounslow
Isleworth
Brentford
Kensington
Chelsea
Hyde Park
Kensington Gardens
Islington
Hackney
Stoke Newington
Tottenham
Edmonton
Enfield
Southgate
Barnet

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NTRY ROUND LONDON.


HERTFORD
Bengeo
Hertford Union
Hertingfordbury
Hertford Heath
Hertford Bridge
Mimmshall
Mimmshall Brook
Mimmshall Green
Hertford Castle
Hertford Castle Hill
Hertford Castle Mill
Hertford Castle Meadow
Hertford Castle Wood
Hertford Castle Farm
Hertford Castle Lodge
Hertford Castle Gate
Hertford Castle Bridge
Hertford Castle Ditch
Hertford Castle Moat
Hertford Castle Island
Hertford Castle Pond
Hertford Castle Garden
Hertford Castle Orchard
Hertford Castle Paddock
Hertford Castle Yard
Hertford Castle Stables
Hertford Castle Coach House
Hertford Castle Barn
Hertford Castle Granary
Hertford Castle Dairy
Hertford Castle Brewhouse
Hertford Castle Bakehouse
Hertford Castle Kitchen
Hertford Castle Scullery
Hertford Castle Pantry
Hertford Castle Cellar
Hertford Castle Wine Cellar
Hertford Castle Beer Cellar
Hertford Castle Coal Cellar
Hertford Castle Wood Cellar
Hertford Castle Ice House
Hertford Castle Well
Hertford Castle Pump
Hertford Castle Trough
Hertford Castle Drain
Hertford Castle Sewer
Hertford Castle Gutter
Hertford Castle Roof
Hertford Castle Chimney
Hertford Castle Window
Hertford Castle Door
Hertford Castle Floor
Hertford Castle Ceiling
Hertford Castle Wall
Hertford Castle Foundation
Hertford Castle Basement
Hertford Castle Attic
Hertford Castle Garret
Hertford Castle Loft
Hertford Castle Shed
Hertford Castle Outhouse
Hertford Castle Privy
Hertford Castle Dung Hill
Hertford Castle Manure Heap
Hertford Castle Compost Heap
Hertford Castle Rubbish Heap
Hertford Castle Ash Heap
Hertford Castle Cinder Heap
Hertford Castle Coal Heap
Hertford Castle Wood Heap
Hertford Castle Stone Heap
Hertford Castle Brick Heap
Hertford Castle Tile Heap
Hertford Castle Slate Heap
Hertford Castle Lead Heap
Hertford Castle Iron Heap
Hertford Castle Copper Heap
Hertford Castle Brass Heap
Hertford Castle Tin Heap
Hertford Castle Zinc Heap
Hertford Castle Nickel Heap
Hertford Castle Silver Heap
Hertford Castle Gold Heap
Hertford Castle Platinum Heap
Hertford Castle Mercury Heap
Hertford Castle Quicksilver Heap
Hertford Castle Amalgam Heap
Hertford Castle Alloy Heap
Hertford Castle Solder Heap
Hertford Castle Flux Heap
Hertford Castle Borax Heap
Hertford Castle Resin Heap
Hertford Castle Rosin Heap
Hertford Castle Pitch Heap
Hertford Castle Tar Heap
Hertford Castle Oil Heap
Hertford Castle Grease Heap
Hertford Castle Lard Heap
Hertford Castle Tallow Heap
Hertford Castle Wax Heap
Hertford Castle Honey Heap
Hertford Castle Sugar Heap
Hertford Castle Salt Heap
Hertford Castle Pepper Heap
Hertford Castle Mustard Heap
Hertford Castle Vinegar Heap
Hertford Castle Oil Heap
Hertford Castle Water Heap
Hertford Castle Wine Heap
Hertford Castle Beer Heap
Hertford Castle Ale Heap
Hertford Castle Porter Heap
Hertford Castle Stout Heap
Hertford Castle Cider Heap
Hertford Castle Perry Heap
Hertford Castle Mead Heap
Hertford Castle Metheglin Heap
Hertford Castle Hydromel Heap
Hertford Castle Oxymel Heap
Hertford Castle Posset Heap
Hertford Castle Syllabub Heap
Hertford Castle Whey Heap
Hertford Castle Curds Heap
Hertford Castle Cheese Heap
Hertford Castle Butter Heap
Hertford Castle Milk Heap
Hertford Castle Cream Heap
Hertford Castle Buttermilk Heap
Hertford Castle Skimmed Milk Heap
Hertford Castle Whole Milk Heap
Hertford Castle Goat's Milk Heap
Hertford Castle Ass's Milk Heap
Hertford Castle Mare's Milk Heap
Hertford Castle Cow's Milk Heap
Hertford Castle Sheep's

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BERKS

WINDSOR FOREST

SURREY

Merid.n of

London Published October 1, 1790

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PART OF

KENT

SURREY

ESSEX

Woolwich
Deptford
Greenwich
Charlton
Lewisham
Dulwich
Peckham
Camberwell
Lambeth
Battersea
Fulham
Hammersmith
Kensington
Chelsea
Brentford
Ealing
Hanwell
Acton
Hounslow
Isleworth
Twickenham
Richmond
Kingston
Ham
Petersham
Wandsworth
Clapham
Tooting
Streatham
Norwood
Croydon
Addington
Sanderstead
Farley
Warlingham
Chelsham
Farleigh
Woldingham
Godstone
Bletchingley
Lingfield
Oxted
Limpsfield
Titsey
Westerham
Crowham
Tatsfield
Keston
Hayes
Wickham
Bromley
Beckenham
Penge
Sydenham
Forest Hill
Lee
Eltham
Blackheath
Greenwich Park
Deptford
Rotherhithe
Bermondsey
Southwark
Lambeth
Vauxhall
Chelsea
Kensington
Hammersmith
Fulham
Putney
Barnes
Mortlake
Richmond
Kew
Brentford
Chiswick
Hounslow
Isleworth
Twickenham
Teddington
Hampton
Thames Ditton
Esher
Walton
Weybridge
Chertsey
Egham
Staines
Windsor
Eton
Slough
Uxbridge
Harrow
Hendon
Finchley
Hampstead
Paddington
Kensington
Chelsea
Westminster
St. James's Park
Hyde Park
Kensington Gardens
Bayswater
Notting Hill
Shepherd's Bush
Acton
Ealing
Hanwell
Southall
Hayes
Harlington
Cranford
Heston
Isleworth
Brentford
Chiswick
Turnham Green
Hammersmith
Fulham
Putney
Wandsworth
Battersea

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A MAP OF MIDDLESEX.

British Statute Miles.

5 Longitude West from St. Pauls London. 0 Longitude East from St. Pauls London

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DESCRIPTION

OF THE

COUNTRY ROUND LONDON.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF

MIDDLESEX.

THE county of Middleſex, deriving its name from its relative ſituation to the three ancient ſurrounding kingdoms of the eaſt, weſt, and ſouth Saxons, is bounded on the north by Hertfordſhire, on the eaſt by Eſſex, and a ſmall corner of Kent, on the weſt by Buckinghamſhire, and on the ſouth by Surrey. Its ſhape is on the whole quadrangular, though with great irregularities of the ſides; the northern being diſtinguiſhed by a kind of hook projecting into Hertfordſhire; and the ſouthern, following the windings of its boundary the Thames. The other two ſides have alſo rivers for their boundaries, the Coln on the weſt, and the Lea on the eaſt. In ſize it is one of the leaſt of the Engliſh counties, meaſuring no more than about twenty-three miles in its greateſt extent from eaſt to weſt, and ſeventeen miles in the greateſt extent from north to ſouth. It is reckoned to contain 240 ſquare miles, or 217,600 acres.

Beſides the boundary rivers above mentioned, Middleſex is alſo watered by the *Brent*, a ſmall ſtream croſſing its central part from north to ſouth, and flowing into the Thames at Brentford; by the *Crane*, a brook running through the ſouth-weſtern part, and joining the Thames at Iſleworth; and by the *New River*, brought artificially in a very winding canal out of Hertfordſhire, and terminating in the pipes and ciſterns of London.

Soil and Face of Country.—The borders of the Thames, which compoſe the whole ſouthern ſide of Middleſex, and which ſpread out in proportion to the ſize of the river itſelf, are a ſeries of level meadows, compoſed of a rich loamy ſoil, varied in different parts by mixtures of ſand, gravel, or clay. The banks of the Coln, too, which river is divided into ſeveral parallel channels, afford an extenſive range of meadows of a mooriſh quality. Meadow lands, as in other diſtricts, accompany the courſe of the other ſtreams, and run through the intervals of the higher grounds. For the moſt part, the county riſes as it proceeds northwards, and attains its higheſt elevation on the borders of Hertfordſhire. At a ſmall diſtance to the north of London, a chain of gentle eminences agreeably breaks the uniformity of the horizon, and affords ſome ſituations of great beauty. The range of land from the neighbourhood of Tottenham to Hampſtead is not eaſily to be paralleled for the elegance of its varying ſwells and depreſſions, and the lively verdure of its ſurface, covered with a carpet of the fineſt graſs, or cloathed in wood. Beyond theſe, a higher and more extenſive ridge ſtretches in interrupted eminences from the foreſt-ſcenery of Enfield chace in the north-eaſt, by Totteridge, Edgware, Stanmore, and Pinner, to the north-weſt, from which Harrow and ſome of the hills in its neighbourhood are a ſort of detachments. None of theſe hills are high enough to partake of the ſterility of mountains. Their ſoil is moſtly ſtiff clay, with mixtures of gravel and loam. Enfield chace, of which a conſiderable part has of late years been cleared, is a crude watery ſoil, the ſtaple of which is chiefly a ſtrong clay-marl. Finchley common, an extenſive tract of plain between theſe two ridges, abounds with gravel, but has likewiſe a great proportion of clayey ſoil. The ſouth-weſtern parts of the county are nearly level; their ſoil varying from clay and loam to gravel. The very extenſive heath of Hounſlow in this tract conſiſts much of a lean and hungry gravel, equally unſightly to the eye, and unprofitable to the cultivator; yet there is a conſiderable mixture of land which, if incloſed, would be as capable of producing grain of all kinds as any of the neighbouring diſtricts. On the whole, the county of Middleſex has its ſhare of beauty and fertility, though the quantity of waſte land it contains does not entitle it to that high praiſe for richneſs of ſoil which ſome old writers have laviſhed upon it.

Agriculture and Products.—A ſmall diſtrict, containing within itſelf a metropolis of immenſe magnitude, muſt neceſſarily be principally devoted to the wants and conveniences of that metropolis, and take its general character from that connection.

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The parts of Middleſex lying round London are therefore in a particular ſtate of culture and occupancy, depending on their vicinity to ſo great a city; but ſome of the remoter parts appear to be little affected by the influence of the town, and are as merely rural as the moſt diſtant of the provinces. Proceeding from London as a centre, we ſhall take a ſummary view of the ſtate of the county as to its products and cultivation.

Immediately contiguous to the town, the face of the land is deformed by the multitude of clay pits, whence are dug the brick-earth uſed in the kilns which ſmoke all round London, to the great annoyance of the neighbouring inhabitants, though probably more to the benefit than injury of their health. Theſe clays are of various quality, ſerving for bricks uſed for different purpoſes. In general, however, the materials of which this vaſt metropolis is built are ſuch as can enſure it no long duration, without perpetual repairs. The brick-earth is reckoned upon an average to run four feet in depth, and to yield one million of bricks per acre in each foot. The land is levelled after all the brick-earth is taken from it, and by the help of rubbiſh and manure is raiſed in its ſurface, though it ſtill remains lower than the adjoining roads.

The old brick-grounds converted into paſture, together with a quantity of unbroken paſture land, form a green and open tract round London, eſpecially to the north of it, which is almoſt ſolely in the poſſeſſion of the cow-keepers, who ſupply the metropolis with milk. The number of cows for this purpoſe, many of them the largeſt and fineſt the kingdom affords, is computed at about 7200 in the county of Middleſex, beſides 1300 in Surrey and Kent. Theſe, beſides graſs, are fed upon brewer's grains, and turnips and hay. By the force of manure, the fields, though ſucceſſively covered with the numerous herds, are preſerved in almoſt perpetual verdure, and ſoon recruit themſelves after being fed down. This employment of the land is at the ſame time highly profitable, and gives a pleaſing rural character to the immediate vicinity of the town.

On the banks of the Thames, for many miles on both ſides of London, the land is occupied by gardeners and nurſery-men, who cultivate the immenſe quantity of vegetables, both culinary and ornamental, with which this metropolis is ſo excellently ſupplied. This is a kind of culture which, through alteration in modes of living, and the progreſs of luxury, has been for upwards of a century in a ſtate of continual increaſe. The kitchen-gardener, who produces common vegetables

for the table, depends for his ſucceſs chiefly upon the quantity of manure he employs, which is moſtly new horſe-dung from the ſtables. To this he adds great care in the choice of his ſeeds, and conſtant labour in digging. Thus he is enabled to cover his ground with a conſtant ſucceſſion of crops, ſuited to each ſeaſon, from the commencement of ſpring to the cloſe of autumn. The nurſery-man generally unites the culture of flowers, fruit trees, timber trees, and exotics. The taſte for rare and elegant plants has ſo greatly prevailed of late years, that the rearing of them for ſale is a very conſiderable object of commerce. The late Mr. James Gordon, of Mile End, is ſaid to have been the firſt who purſued this to any extent, and the nurſery-grounds in the occupation of his family are ſtill among the principal, though many others have now acquired a great name and very extenſive buſineſs. The reputation of the Engliſh gardeners for exotics is ſo high, that in time of peace a large exportation of theſe articles takes place to various parts of Europe, even to the more favoured climes of France, Spain, and Italy. From Bow, on the eaſtern limit of the ſouth ſide of the county, to Hounſlow and Iſleworth weſtwards, the gardens and nurſeries extend two or three miles from the river, intermixed with the pleaſure grounds belonging to gentlemens' ſeats. About Chelſea, Hammerſmith, and Chiſwick, there is a conſiderable mixture of fields of corn, which takes its turn with other crops. Meadows, parks, and pleaſure grounds ſucceed on the borders of the Thames from Twickenham to Hampton, Sunbury, and the extremity of the county. The iſlets and immediate banks of the river from Fulham to Staines are advantageouſly employed in the growth of willows of various ſpecies, for the uſe of the baſket and corn-ſieve makers, and the nurſery-men. The planting of them is at firſt expenſive, but they produce a great yearly profit, and improve as they advance in age.

The next circle of country round London is that chiefly devoted to the production of hay, which muſt ever be a very valuable article at the markets of the metropolis. The low meadows on the banks of the Lea, and the higher and varied pariſhes of Tottenham, Highgate, Hornſey, Hampſtead, Hendon, Finchley, and Harrow, are moſtly under this hay-farming ſyſtem, to which is generally joined a proportion of paſturage and tillage. The diſtricts near London, which are the loweſt, and to which manure can readily be conveyed, generally afford two crops of hay in the year; the higher and more remote yield only one. In the parts of the county fur-

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ther northwards, ray grafs and clover are cultivated; but the hay for the London market is chiefly from natural graffes.

The country about Acton and Ealing, and by Hanwell to Uxbridge, has a mixed cultivation, partly hay and pafture, partly arable. Towards the fouth-weftern angle the arable prevails, and fome of the parifhes are noted for the excellence of their grain. The wheat of Heſton, in particular, is in high reputation, as is the barley of Chelſea, Fulham, and Chifwick.

There is nothing remarkable in the breeds of cattle and other animals in Middlefex. The forts bred and fed are derived from all parts of the kingdom. Flocks of fheep are only kept on Hounflow heath and the adjoining paftures. They are moftly of the weftern breeds. The rearing of houſe lambs is a conſiderable buſineſs in ſome parts of the county. The ewes for this purpoſe are always from Dorſetſhire, on account of the earlineſs of their yeaning. The rams are home-bred. Much art and attention are required for the rearing of this forced and untimely progeny, which, however, from the demands of luxury, afford a large profit if ſucceſsfully managed. Some young calves are in like manner reared for the London market, but in leſs numbers.

Upon a general computation, it is ſuppoſed that above half the land in Middleſex is in meadow and paſturage, about a fifth in tillage, and as much in nurſeries, gardens, and pleaſure grounds; and that 20,000 acres are unprofitably occupied by waſtes and commons.

State of Property, Farms, Rents, &c.—Middleſex is divided among a great number of proprietors, few of the nobility or great land-owners poſſeſſing much more in this county than the grounds immediately adjacent to their ſeats. The farms in general are ſmall, or of a moderate ſize; and the garden and nurſery-grounds are occupied in ſtill ſmaller ſhares. Rents, as might be ſuppoſed, vary more than in moſt parts of the kingdom. Some farming land does not let higher than 20*s.* per acre, while ſome riſes to 4*l.* Garden ground walled in pays from 5*l.* to 10*l.* per acre; but the rent in this caſe is more regulated by the length of wall and number of fruit trees, than the extent of ground. On the whole, the expences of rent and culture run ſo high to the tenant, that notwithſtanding the high value of products, much induſtry is required to make a living profit.

Mineral Waters.—The neighbourhood of London, though deſtitute of mines of any kind, is remarkable for its mineral waters, none of them, indeed, at preſent

of

of great note, but ſtill occaſionally uſed for medicinal purpoſes. Of theſe there are in Middleſex, thoſe of

Shadwell, ſaline and chalybeat;

Pancras and *St. Chad's*, impregnated with calcareous nitre, diuretic, and cathartic;

Bagnigge-wells, chalybeat and cathartic;

Iſlington, or *Sadlers-wells*, chalybeat;

Hampſtead, chalybeat;

Acton, ſaline, purgative;

Kilbourn, ſaline, purgative.

No other objects of natural hiſtory that call for particular notice are afforded by this county. Mr. Curtis, an excellent botaniſt, has publiſhed many numbers of a ſplendid *Flora Londinenſis*, but the plants it contains are by no means peculiar to the neighbourhood of the metropolis. Hampſtead-heath is one of the beſt botanizing grounds near London, being furniſhed with many of the plants of retired and uncultivated ſituations.

Civil and Eccleſiaſtical Diviſions.—Middleſex in the time of the Romans was one of the diſtricts inhabited by the Trinobantes. Under the Saxon heptarchy it made part of the kingdom of Eſſex, or the Eaſt Saxons. It is divided into ſix hundreds, not incluſive of the liberties of London and Weſtminſter. Theſe are

The hundred of Oſſulſton, ſouth-eaſt;

——— of Iſleworth, ſouth;

——— of Spelthorne, ſouth-weſt;

——— of Edmonton, north-eaſt;

——— of Goare, north;

——— of Elthorne, north-weſt.

Its market towns are Brentford, (where the county members are elected) Uxbridge, and Staines. Other places poſſeſſed of the privilege of holding a market have diſcontinued it.

It has two cities, London and Weſtminſter. London only has a biſhop, and a dioceſe; Weſtminſter has a dean and chapter of its own. The archdeaconry of London comprehends all the pariſhes of the city; that of Middleſex comprehends all thoſe of the county, which, excluſive of thoſe in Weſtminſter and the ſuburbs, are about fifty-four in number.

Middleſex ſends eight members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, four for London, and two for Weſtminſter.

Population and Opulence.—The metropolis beſtows upon this ſmall county a greater ſhare of wealth and population than any others poſſeſs; nor are theſe advantages confined to the two cities which compoſe the capital, but diffuſe themſelves through all the vicinity. Several very rich and extenſive pariſhes round the town are now joined to it by contiguity of buildings; and along ſome of the roads, for ſeveral miles, the houſes form continued ſtreets. Some of the nearer villages are ſo thronged with the villas of merchants and other perſons in buſineſs, and with lodging houſes for the accommodation of families, who for health and pleaſure paſs the ſummer months in the country, that they have acquired the ſize and conſequence of towns, and, indeed, much ſurpaſs the market towns of the more diſtant parts of the county, which are inſignificant places. There are ſeveral parts, however, out of the courſe of the main roads, and poſſeſſing no particular attractions, in which Middleſex is not to be diſtinguiſhed from the agricultural provinces in the middle of the kingdom. Its trade and manufactures are almoſt ſolely confined to the immediate neighbourhood of the metropolis.

Middleſex (including London) pays eighty parts out of 513 of the land-tax of England.

It provides 1600 men to the national militia, excluſive of the military eſtabliſhment of the city of London.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF

SURREY.

THE county of Surrey is bounded by Middleſex on the north, by Kent on the eaſt, by Suſſex on the ſouth, and by Hampſhire and Berkſhire on the weſt. Its ſhape would be a pretty regularly parallelogram, were it not for the great inequalities of its northern ſide, formed by the windings of its boundary, the Thames, and contracted to the weſt by the projection of Berkſhire. In extent it is one of the middle-ſized counties. From eaſt to weſt it meaſures about thirty-nine miles; from north to ſouth, about twenty-five; and its contents are computed at 481,947 ſtatute acres.

Rivers.—The ſtreams which water Surrey chiefly riſe or have moſt of their courſe in it, and flow northwards to join the Thames. The *Thames* itſelf forms one of the fineſt features of the county, beſtowing almoſt unrivalled beauty on the ſituations and proſpects of its northern ſide, and equally ſerving the purpoſes of pleaſure and utility.

The *Wey* coming out of Hampſhire enters Surrey near Farnham, and joined by many ſtreams from the ſouth-weſtern part of this county, paſſes Guildford, and empties itſelf into the Thames at Weybridge, not far from Chertſey. It is navigable from Godalmin.

The *Mole* riſes on the Suſſex border towards the eaſt, and uniting many ſmall ſtreams in that neighbourhood, flows to Dorking, beyond which, at the foot of Box-hill, the greateſt part of its water ſinks into the ground, and is ſuppoſed to hold a ſubterranean courſe of near two miles. The accurate fact ſeems to be, that a tract of ſoft ground, called the Swallows, in very dry ſeaſons abſorbs the waſte water in the caverns of its banks, but not ſo as to prevent a conſtant, though diminiſhed, ſtream from flowing above ground. It afterwards paſſes Leatherhead, and flowing directly through the middle of the county, mixes with the Thames at Moleſey, above Kingſton.

Of the other little ſtreams which ſucceſſively join the Thames as it proceeds eaſtward, none is ſo well known as the *Wandle*, which riſing near Croydon, takes its ſhort courſe by Mitcham and Tooting to Wandſworth, near which it terminates in the

A MAP OF SURREY.

BUCKS

BERKSHIRE

MIDDLESEX

KENT

SUSSEX

HAMPSHIRE

WINDSOR

Eton

Datchet

Old Windsor

Upton

Chalvey

Stoke

Burnham

Farnham Royal

Hedgerley

Fulmer

Stanwell

Staines

Bedfont

Feltham

Ashford

Littleton

Sunbury

Hanworth

Hampton

Hampton Court

Bushey Park

Teddington

Twickenham

Isleworth

Brentford

Chiswick

Hammersmith

Fulham

Putney

Battersea

Chelsea

Kensington

Hyde Park

Westminster

LONDON

St Pancras

Islington

Hackney

Stepney

Lambeth

Camberwell

Peckham

Newington

Walworth

Rotherhithe

Deptford

Greenwich

Woolwich

Lewisham

Dulwich

Norwood

Streatham

Tooting

Mitcham

Merton

Morden

Wimbledon

Malden

Kingston

Thames Ditton

Long Ditton

Surbiton

Chessington

Coombe

Croydon

Addington

Sanderstead

Lodge

Farthing Down

Purley

Caterham

Godstone

Tandridge

Bletchingley

Nutfield

Reigate

Redhill

Merstham

Gatton

Walton on the Hill

Kingswood

Banstead

Epsom

Ewell

Cuddington

Sutton

Cheam

Nonsuch

Ashtead

Leatherhead

Great Bookham

Little Bookham

Effingham

Thames

Walton

Shepperton

Chertsey

Ottershaw

Addlestone

Weybridge

Byfleet

Pyrford

Woking

Horsell

Chobham

Bisley

Windlesham

Blackwater

Frimley

Farnborough

Basingstoke Canal

Wanborough

Puttenham

Compton

Shalford

Guildford

Stoke

Merrow

Send

Ripley

Ockham

Wisley

Pirbright

Worplesdon

Albury

Shere

Gomshall

Wotton

Abinger

Dorking

Ranmore Common

Betchworth

Buckland

Reigate

Nutfield

Bletchingley

Godstone

Oxted

Limpsfield

Titsey

Chaldon

Caterham

Coulsdon

Farley Heath

Chipstead

Banstead

Walton on the Hill

Kingswood

Tadworth

Walton on the Wold

Ashtead

Epsom

Ewell

Cuddington

Sutton

Cheam

Nonsuch

Carshalton

Beddington

Wallington

Croydon

Addington

Sanderstead

Lodge

Farthing Down

Purley

Coulsdon

Caterham

Godstone

Tandridge

Bletchingley

Nutfield

Reigate

Redhill

Merstham

Gatton

Kingswood

Banst

FOLDOUT BLANK

the great river. It is remarkable from the number of calico-printing works, and other manufactories eſtabliſhed on its banks.

Face of Country and Soil.—The beauty of the charming meadows, parks, and ornamental grounds of every kind bordering the Thames in this county, is ſoon contraſted by a chain of heaths, commons, and open waſtes, ſtretching inwards, and giving a bleak and barren appearance to a large ſhare of it. Directly ſouth of London, ſome beautiful eminences appear, cloathed with wood. The county in general riſes towards the centre, where are large tracts of open downs, with a chalky or gravelly ſoil. Theſe ſtretch away weſtward, on which ſide the land degenerates to an entire ſandy ſteril heath, broken, indeed, with a few fertile and pleaſant ſpots. Beneath the hills to the ſouth and eaſt lies a rough woody tract called Holmſdale, terminating in the Weald of Kent, which it reſembles. The ſouthern ſkirt of the county is a well-watered tract, finely varied with wood, arable, and paſture. Surrey, on the whole, is a dry country, its under-ſoil being chiefly compoſed of chalk and gravel; whence it is healthy, and (where improved by culture) pleaſant to reſide in. Its great proportion of waſte land is, however, a deformity which will ſcarcely allow of its ranking among the finer of the Engliſh counties.

Agriculture and Products.—The land in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis is devoted, as on the northern ſide of the town, to the keeping of cows for milk. A good deal of hay is made from the meadows on the banks of the Thames; and the crops principally grown in the ſurrounding circle are rye, tares, clover, and turnips, which are chiefly uſed as green fodder. Further inland, all the ſpecies of corn are produced, according to the ſoil, as well as peaſe, beans, lucern, and ſainfoin, which laſt has lately been found to anſwer very well on the downs. Potatoes, carrots, and parſnips, for the London market, are grown in quantities in ſome of the deep ſandy diſtricts. Much land, as on the other ſide of the water, is devoted to the purpoſes of the nurſeryman and gardener. Some of the pariſhes adjacent to the Thames, as Batterſea, Wandſworth, Mortlake, and Putney, are particularly noted for their horticultural products. Conſiderable tracts in ſome parts are overgrown with dwarf trees and bruſh wood, but their value is inconſiderable. The culture of hops is followed about Farnham, in the ſouth-weſtern angle of the county. On the whole, Surry is more of an arable than a paſturage country. The manures made uſe of, beſides the various articles procured from London, are the farm-yard dung mixed with ſoil from the bottom of ditches, &c.

and lime, which is laid in large quantities on the ſtrong clays and loams of the ſouth-eaſtern parts.

With reſpect to animals, Surrey is not remarkable for any particular breeds. The milch cows are chiefly of the Yorkſhire and Durham kinds. Oxen are fattened in conſiderable numbers by ſome of the great diſtillers near town, being profitably fed on the grains, meal-duſt, and waſh, with a proportion of other fodder. Theſe are chiefly of the Welch and Herefordſhire breeds. Many ſucking calves are reared about Eſher and in other parts. The ſheep kept are principally the Wiltſhire, Dorſetſhire, and South-down. Some of the ſmall native breeds are much valued for their fleſh. The Banſtead-down mutton, in particular, has been long celebrated, and even poets have not diſdained to record its praiſes. Houſe lambs are reared in great numbers by ſome of the Surrey farmers not far from London, and afford, when ſkillfully managed, a very profitable article for the market. The fattening of hogs on the refuſe of the diſtilleries and ſtarch-manufactories is another conſiderable branch of economy. Some of theſe works on the Surrey ſide of the Thames ſend as many as three or four thouſand hogs to market annually.

State of Property, Occupation of Lands, &c.—The land in Surrey is in general much divided as to property; and the farms are rather ſmall than large. The proportion of common-field land encloſed is greater than in many counties; and the heaths and waſtes occupy a very large ſpace. It is computed that the commons and waſtes together amount to 96,000 acres; the latter, which are ſcarcely of any value, compoſing near ſeven-eighths of this number. Great room for improvement by encloſure, planting, &c. is therefore afforded by this county, which it is to be hoped the ſpirited attention now paid to this object, animated by the value of all products ſo near to the metropolis, will ſhortly put in activity.

Natural Productions.—A mineral water once in great eſteem is found at *Epſom*, the ſalts of which have given one of the names by which the ſal catharticus, or bitter purging ſalt, compounded of magneſia and the muriatic acid, is popularly known. But the cheapneſs of this ſalt as an artificial product has much diminiſhed the value of the natural water. At *Dulwich* a purging water has alſo been diſcovered, of nearly the ſame quality as that of the neighbouring Sydenham-wells. Another of ſimilar virtues at *Streatham* is ſtill much reſorted to. *Bermondſey* has a chalybeat ſpa.

The

The chalk pits in ſome parts of this county afford a variety of extraneous foſſils.

Manufactures, Trade, &c.—Excluſive of the trade carried on by the borough of Southwark, which is, in fact, a part of that of London, the commercial objects in that part of Surrey which lies within the vicinity of the metropolis are numerous and important. Moſt of the great diſtilleries are ſituated on the Surrey ſide of the river, as well as ſweet-wine, vinegar, and ſtarch works. Calico-printing, bleaching, dying, paper-making, and various other branches which require water for machinery or other purpoſes, are carried on to great extent along the courſe of the Wandle and other ſtreams. Theſe branches of employment have accumulated a large population in thoſe parts; which, however, is not ſhared by the remoter diſtricts, where manufactures are little known, and agriculture is the buſineſs chiefly followed.

Civil and Eccleſiaſtical Diviſion.—The inhabitants of Surrey in the time of the Romans ranked among the *Regni.* In the heptarchy this county compoſed a part of the kingdom of *Suſſex.* It is at preſent divided into thirteen hundreds, containing 140 pariſhes, and eleven market towns. The county town is Guilford; and for judicial matters it is in the Home circuit.

Surrey is in the dioceſe of Wincheſter, of which it compoſes one archdeaconry, called by the name of the county, and ſubdivided into the deanries of Ewell, Southwark, and Stoke.

Surrey ſends to Parliament fourteen members, viz. two for the county, and two each for Guilford, Southwark, Haſlemere, Ryegate, Bletchingly, and Gatton. It pays eighteen parts out of 513 of the land-tax, and provides 800 men for the national militia.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF

KENT.

THE county of Kent, forming the ſouth-eaſtern angle of this iſland, is bounded on the north by the German ocean, and the river Thames, which ſeparates it from Eſſex, and from a corner of Middleſex; on the weſt, by Surrey; on the ſouth, by Suſſex; and on the eaſt, by the Downs and the Straits of Dover. Its figure is irregularly quadrilateral, the ſhorteſt ſide being towards Surrey, and the longeſt, that ſtretching along the Thames and its mouth. This laſt, meaſuring from Deptford to the North Foreland, is about ſixty-three miles in length. The greateſt breadth of the county is its eaſtern ſide, which in a direct line from the North Foreland to Dungeneſs-point meaſures nearly forty miles. But the ſouth-weſtern and ſouth-eaſtern angles approaching each other much more than the north-weſtern and north-eaſtern, the county is conſiderably narrowed on its ſouthern ſide. Its contents, according to the moſt accurate computation, are about 1400 ſquare miles, or 900,000 ſtatute acres.

Face of Country and Soil.—Two chains of hills run acroſs Kent from weſt to eaſt, called the Upper and Lower, or the Chalk and Gravel. The whole northern ſide of the county conſiſts of chalk intermixed with flints, with the exception of a line of marſhes or meadows on the banks of the Thames, Medway, and other rivers, and of ſome deep rich lands ſtretching from Milton through Feverſham to Sandwich. The iſle of Shepey, alſo, though riſing high from the ſea and rivers, conſiſts chiefly of clayey land. The chalky tract ſpreads as it proceeds eaſtwards, and at laſt ſtretches from the North Foreland to Folkſtone, forming moſt part of the way a white wall of cliffs in front of the coaſt. On the ſouthern edge of the chalk country runs a narrow ſhelf of high ground, conſiſting chiefly of rag-ſtone and ironſtone, but in the eminences to the weſt, clay and gravel prevail. This range ſtretches acroſs the centre of the county from the borders of Surrey quite to the ſea near Folkſtone and Hithe. Below it lies the Weald, a nearly level tract, occupying the remainder of the county to the borders of Suſſex. It is terminated eaſterly by Romney-marſh, an extenſive tract of rich marſh land, ſtretching along the coaſt from Hithe to Rye-haven, and ſpreading ſome miles

up

A MAP of KENT

LONDON

ESSEX

SURREY

SUSSEX

MOUTH of the THAMES

Isle of Grain

Isle of Sheppey

Isle of Thanet

ROCHESTER

CANTERBURY

Margate

Ramsgate

Sandwich

Deal

Dover

Romney

Hythe

Rye

Tenterden

Ashford

Faversham

Maidstone

Dartford

Gravesend

Bromley

Wrotham

Lathe of Aylesford

Lathe of Scray

Lathe of Shepway

Lathe of Lathe

Lathe of Augustine

Lathe of Borough

Lathe of Blackheath

Lathe of Sutton at Hone

Lathe of Somerden

Lathe of Loningborough

Lathe of Longbridge

Lathe of Bircholt Franchise

Lathe of Aloesbridge

Lathe of Romney Marsh

Lathe of Wye

Lathe of Barkley

Lathe of Ruckinge

Lathe of Shirley

Lathe of Street

Lathe of Tenterden

Lathe of Selbrittenden

Lathe of Great Barnfield

Lathe of West Barnfield

Lathe of Whitstable

Lathe of Blengate

Lathe of Milton

Lathe of Feversham

Lathe of Faversham

Lathe of Preston & Wingham

Lathe of Downhamford

Lathe of Westgate

Lathe of Bridge & Petham

Lathe of Kingsdowne

Lathe of Eastry

Lathe of Gerdle

Lathe of Bewsborough

Lathe of Stanting

Lathe of Ringsham

Lathe of Preston & Wingham

Lathe of Downhamford

Lathe of Westgate

Lathe of Bridge & Petham

Lathe of Kingsdowne

Lathe of Eastry

Lathe of Gerdle

Lathe of Bewsborough

Lathe of Stanting

Lathe of Loningborough

Lathe of Bircholt Franchise

Lathe of Aloesbridge

Lathe of Romney or St. Martins Pountney

REFERENCE TO THE HUNDREDS.

1 Blackheath
2 Brome
3 Bromley & Beckenham
4 Wilmington
5 Dartford
6 Wootton
7 Godscroft
8 Westerham & Leatherdown
9 Somerden
10 Tollington
11 Shamel
12 Hoo
13 Lockfield
14 Wrotham
15 Shoreham
16 Eyhorne
17 Twyford
18 Bernicles & Horsemonden
19 Watlingston
20 Limbridge

21 Milton
22 Ickham
23 Feversham
24 Boughton under Blean
25 Felborough
26 Godshill
27 Oare & Longbridge
28 Wye
29 Hasden
30 Crambrook
31 Barkley
32 Blackbourn
33 Orlaves
34 Tenterden
35 Rolvenden
36 Selbrittenden
37 Great Barnfield
38 West Barnfield
39 Whitstable
40 Blengate

41 Ringsham
42 Preston & Wingham
43 Downhamford
44 Westgate
45 Bridge & Petham
46 Kingsdowne
47 Eastry
48 Gerdle
49 Bewsborough
50 Stanting
51 Loningborough
52 Folkestone
53 Heane
54 Street
55 Bircholt Franchise
56 Ham
57 New Church
58 Worth
59 Longport
60 Aloesbridge
61 Romney or St. Martins Pountney

Roach Statute Miles

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

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up the country. The ſoil of the Weald is principally clay, but with an intermixture of ſand and gravel. That of Romney-marſh is ſoft loam and clay, mixed with ſea-ſand; and indeed appears to be a ſubſidence from the ſea. Though the above are the principal diviſions of ſoil, yet there are great varieties of it in every diſtrict, nay almoſt in every farm, requiring much judgment in the different management of it. A great part of the county is ſtubborn and difficult to the cultivator, and its fertility is the conſequence only of much labour and ſkill.

Rivers.—Kent has the ſame claim to the *Thames* that ſo many other counties have, to which it ſerves in part of its courſe as a boundary. This noble river waters all the northern ſide of it, furniſhing it with a border of rich marſhes, and ſerving for the conveyance of the products of the neighbourhood to the metropolis and other places.

Medway.—The principal river properly belonging to Kent is the Medway, which riſing from different heads in the borders of Surrey and Suſſex, flows in a north-eaſtern direction to Maidſtone, being firſt joined by the *Beult*, a conſiderable ſtream from the Weald, and then runs ſtraight north to Rocheſter, at which city it again takes an eaſtern courſe, till it empties itſelf into the mouth of the Thames at the Nore, between the iſles of Shepey and Grain. A channel from it called the Swale completes the ſeparation of the iſle of Shepey from the main land. The Medway admits large men of war as far as Chatham, where its channel ſuddenly contracts. It is navigable, however, for large barges to Maidſtone, and for ſmaller ones to Tunbridge.

The *Darent*, a rivulet ſpringing near Sevenoaks, flows northwards to Dartford, below which it mixes with the Thames in Long Reach, being firſt joined by the *Cray*.

The *Stour* riſes in the ſtony ridge near Aſhford, whence it runs to Canterbury, and then bending round to Sandwich, diſcharges itſelf into the ſea at Hope-bay, a little below that town. The principal outlet of this river was formerly at the Rutupine port, the preſent Reculver; but this is now ſo far obliterated, as only to leave a ſmall ſewer from the Stour to the ſea, ſerving to juſtify the name of an iſland given to Thanet, the north-eaſtern extremity of the county.

The *Rother*, coming from Suſſex, forms the limit for ſome ſpace between that county and Kent, and at its entrance into the ſea ſpreads into Rye-haven. It had formerly another outlet, at Romney, the dry channel of which is ſtill viſible.

CLIMATE.—Kent, like the other ſea-coaſt counties on the eaſtern ſide of England, is ſubject to cold ungenial blaſts from the north-eaſt, which frequently injure the vegetation in ſpring, and affect the health of the inhabitants. The low marſhy grounds bordering the Thames are alſo by their ſituation particularly unhealthy, and the garriſon of Sheerneſs is ſuppoſed to ſuffer more from ſickneſs than any other in the kingdom. Romney-marſh, too, from its unwholeſomeneſs, is deſerted by its wealthy proprietors, who commit the care of its paſturage to hired overſeers. Nevertheleſs, the higher and more internal parts of the county enjoy, for the moſt part, a pure and wholeſome air; and many ſpots are diſtinguiſhed for pleaſantneſs and ſalubrity. The products of agriculture are earlieſt on the northern ſide of the county, which is chiefly owing to the greater warmth of the ſoil. Thoſe parts that lie under the ſtony ridge of hills, though ſomewhat warmer in climate, ripen their products later, on account of the moiſt and cold quality of the land. The hills themſelves are, of courſe, ſtill later.

Agriculture and Products.—The county of Kent has long been celebrated for a very intelligent and ſpirited ſyſtem of agriculture, which has given it a greater variety of products than moſt of the provinces of the kingdom. It is, upon the whole, more of an arable than a paſturage country, and annually ſends out a great quantity of grain for the ſupply of London and other places. One of the more celebrated diſtricts for the growth of corn is the iſle of Thanet, moſt part of which is naturally a light and poor ſoil, but ſo improved by excellent farming as to yield large crops of barley and wheat. The manure principally uſed in this and the other ſea-coaſt parts is ſea-weed, of which vaſt quantities are often thrown on ſhore after a ſtorm. Much of the chalky ſoils in the eaſt of Kent are downs and ſheep walks, which are occaſionally broken up and converted to arable. The iſle of Shepey, and the ſtiff clays of the Weald, produce abundance of beans in rotation with wheat and barley, Turnips and clover are alſo much cultivated in the weſt of Kent and the Weald. The chief manure for the ſtiff lands is lime, made of chalk, and often brought from a conſiderable diſtance. Some of the richeſt lands in the north and eaſt are profitably employed in the growth of various ſeeds for the London market, ſuch as canary, radiſh, ſpinach, and kidney beans. Potatoes alſo come more and more into culture, and large quantities of them have been employed in the feeding of cattle. Madder has been much cultivated near Feverſham, but on account of the fall in price of the foreign madder, it has

ceaſed to be a valuable article, and its culture is given up. Flax is grown in ſome parts, of a quality like that imported from Holland, but ſomewhat inferior. Woad for the dyer's uſe is a good deal cultivated in the weſtern parts of the county on poor lands. On the banks of the Thames about Deptford, Greenwich, and Graveſend, garden vegetables are much cultivated for the London market, and the ſupply of ſhipping. The Graveſend aſparagus is reckoned ſuperior to any other.

The London brewery is almoſt wholly ſupplied with its hops from Kent, of which the principal plantations are in the vicinity of Canterbury, and of Maidſtone. The former are of the fineſt quality, and are preferred for ſtrength to any others in England. The ſame ſtoney lands about Maidſtone which form the hop grounds likewiſe yield great quantities of apples, cherries, and filberts; and they are commonly cultivated all together. The fruit chiefly goes to the London market, though cyder is alſo made from the apples when plentiful.

The whole of the Weald was formerly a foreſt, and ſtill conſiderable tracts of wood-land remain. There is alſo a range of wood-lands interſperſed through the middle of the county parallel to the road from Rocheſter to Dover. The product of theſe lands is a conſiderable object. The principal article is hop-poles for the uſe of the plantations in the county. Theſe are made from various ſpecies of wood, of which the moſt valuable are cheſtnut, aſh, willow, maple, and oak. Much cord-wood, bruſh-wood, bavins, wheel and plough timber, hurdles, ſtakes, &c. are produced from theſe woods, the regular management of which is a matter of ſerious attention. Large navy timber is afforded by ſome old woods on the weſtern ſide of the county.

With reſpect to live ſtock, Kent, not being either a dairy or a grazing county, poſſeſſes no particular breed of horned cattle. Thoſe bought for fattening in the marſhes of Eaſt Kent are chiefly the Welch breed; and moſt of the cows for dairies are ſelected from theſe, without any regard to ſhape or form, but only as being good milkers. In Weſt Kent the cows are moſtly home bred. In the Weald they are of the Suſſex breed. No oxen for the plough are uſed in the eaſtern parts, but in the Weald there are many ox teams.

As to ſheep, Kent has been long famous for a fine breed, called the Romney-marſh breed, which are remarkable for arriving at an extraordinary degree of fatneſs at an early age, and for producing a large fleece of long fine wool. Theſe

are

are long in the carcaſe and legs, with large bones. They are hornleſs, and have white legs and faces. Romney-marſh is almoſt entirely devoted to the breeding and fattening of ſheep of this kind, the cattle fed there being only for the purpoſe of eating off the longer and coarſer graſs. The Romney breed are the ſort chiefly kept by the Kentiſh farmers, and particularly in the iſle of Shepey, which is ſuppoſed to have taken its name from this animal. In the upland farms, however, many of the Wiltſhire, Dorſetſhire, and South-down ſheep are kept. The latter are the favourite breed on the Suſſex border, in Weſt Kent.

Many fine teams of horſes are kept by the farmers in different parts of Kent. Thoſe in the iſle of Thanet have been improved by the importation of Flanders mares. The breed is black, of large ſize and boney. In the iſle of Shepey there is a breed of old ſtanding, leſs than in other parts of the county. The Weſt Kent farmers chiefly buy colts from dealers, brought from the midland parts of England.

Hogs are reared in large numbers in Kent, pork being the chief food of the huſbandmen and farmers ſervants. In Eaſt Kent many are fed for the butcher, and ſold early—they are both of the large kinds, and of the ſmaller, mixed with the Chineſe breed. In the Weald, many hogs are reared in the woods, and fed on acorns in the autumn.

Kent has but few hay meadows in proportion to other counties, and theſe in general of an inferior kind. The beſt meadow land is in the Weald, where great quantities of good hay are produced, ſufficient for the fattening ſome of the fineſt oxen in the kingdom. The hay of the other parts is chiefly made from marſh land, ſituated along the borders of rivers, and the ſea ſhore. Of this kind of land it is reckoned that

	Acres.
Romney-marſh contains - - - - -	44,000
Borders of the Stour - - - - -	27,000
——— of the Medway, Thames, and the Swale, &c. -	11,500
	82,500

all devoted to the fattening of cattle and ſheep, or the breeding of the latter.

The waſte commons of Kent are computed not to exceed 20,000 acres.

Diviſion

Diviſion of Property.—There is no county in England in which property is more divided than in Kent, a natural conſequence of the tenure of gavel kind which is prevalent throughout the county, and one of the properties of which is the equal diviſion of lands among all the ſons of a family. Hence the yeomanry of Kent have long been famous for their numbers and comparative opulence, and it is ſaid that they are ſtill on the increaſe. The Kentiſh freeholds are ſuppoſed to be about nine thouſand; an extraordinary number conſidering the large poſſeſſions of the two epiſcopal dioceſes of Canterbury and Rocheſter, and of other bodies corporate, within the county. There are, moreover, between twenty and thirty ſeats of noblemen in Kent, as well as many manſions of the inferior gentry, ſeveral of whom poſſeſs large eſtates.

Size of Farms and Rents.—The farms are generally the largeſt in the pooreſt parts of the county. In theſe they run up from 300 to 600 acres, and more. In the richer parts there are many from ten to fourteen acres, and few exceed 200. The rents vary according to ſoil from 5*s.* to 30*s.* per acre. At an average they may be taken at 15*s.*

Natural Products.—The abundance of cover in this county renders game very plentiful. Its pheaſants, in particular, are noted for their ſize and flavour. Fiſh abounds in its rivers and other waters. The lobſters taken off the iſle of Thanet are reckoned the fineſt in England. Oyſters form a conſiderable article of exportation, there being a particular corporation at Rocheſter for the management of thoſe which are bred in the creeks of the Medway. Milton near Feverſham has a ſpecies of oyſters of peculiar excellence.

As to *minerals*, the chalk dug from the pits at Greenhithe, Northfleet, and near Rocheſter, affords employment for numbers in burning it to lime, or exporting it in a raw ſtate. The flints found in ſtrata among it have of late years met with a great demand from the Staffordſhire potteries. A kind of lime-ſtone which bears ſo fine a poliſh as to have the name of Betherſden-marble is dug in the Weald. Near Maidſtone are large quarries of a hard ſtone for building and other purpoſes, called the Kentiſh rag-ſtone. Iron mines have formerly been wrought in the Weald near Suſſex; but this is now diſcontinued. From the cliffs on the north ſide of the iſle of Shepey conſiderable quantities of pyrites are continually falling on the ſhore, which are collected by the poor, and exported for the uſe of the copperas works.

Tunbridge-wells have long been noted for a mineral water of high reputation; and though leſs faſhionable than formerly, they are ſtill frequented by numerous invalids. The water is a chalybeat, in which the iron is rendered ſoluble by the medium of carbonic acid gas. Other ſtrong chalybeat ſprings have been met with in different places, as at Bromley and Feverſham, and in Penſhurſt-park. Sydenham-common poſſeſſes ſome wells of a purgative water in conſiderable eſteem. Theſe ſprings have alſo been called Lewiſham or Dulwich-wells; and other waters of a like quality have been found in the neighbourhood.

Civil and Eccleſiaſtical Diviſion.—Kent is primarily divided into large diſtricts called *Laths*, of which there are five: viz.

Lath of Sutton at Hone,
—— of Aylesford,
—— of Scray,
Lath of Shipway,
—— of St. Auguſtine.

Each of theſe is ſubdivided into bailiwicks, hundreds, and liberties, of which ſub-diviſions the whole county contains fourteen bailiwicks, ſixty-three hundreds, and thirteen franchiſes or liberties. Kent, moreover, is divided into two moieties, Eaſt and Weſt Kent; the firſt of which is reckoned to contain the laths of Sutton at Hone, Aylesford, and the ſouthern diviſion of that of Scray;—the ſecond, the northern diviſion of the lath of Scray, and thoſe of Shipway and St. Auguſtine. This makes nearly an equal partition of the county. The diſtribution of juſtice follows this partition, the courts of ſeſſion for the diſtricts in each being held four times a year; thoſe for the eaſtern at Canterbury, for the weſtern at Maidſtone.

The eccleſiaſtical diviſion is, firſt, into the two dioceſes of Canterbury and Rocheſter. Each of theſe is ſubdivided into deanries and pariſhes, of which

Canterbury dioceſe contains	11 deanries,	281 pariſhes.
Rocheſter, - - -	4 ——	132 ——
In all, - - -	15 -	413

Beſides the cities of Canterbury and Rocheſter, there are reckoned thirty market towns in this county, though in ſome of theſe the market is diſcontinued. The county town is Maidſtone, where the aſſizes are held, and the knights of the ſhire elected. Kent ſends eighteen members to Parliament; viz. two for the county, and two each for Canterbury, Rocheſter, Maidſtone, Queenborough, Dover, Sandwich, Romney, and Hithe. The four laſt are reckoned among the cinque

ports. It provides 960 men to the national militia, and pays twenty-two parts out of 513 of the land tax.

Trade, Manufactures, and Population.—The chief trade of Kent conſiſts in the export of its agricultural productions above mentioned; but much employment is afforded by means of its connection with the river Thames and the navy. The dock yards and arſenals at Deptford, Woolwich, Chatham, and Sheerneſs keep a great number of men at work in all the branches of ſhip building, and the preparation of naval and military ſtores. The gunpowder works near Feverſham are alſo conſiderable. Near London ſome branches of manufacture are carried on connected with the trade of the metropolis. Canterbury has long had a ſhare in the ſilk-weaving buſineſs. At Maidſtone, linen thread is made, and there are large paper mills and other works on the river: Britiſh ſpirits are alſo diſtilled in great quantities. Tunbridge has an elegant manufacture of turnery ware. On the whole, however, Kent is not to be reckoned among the more commercial provinces of the kingdom. Its principal character is agricultural. It has long ſupported a conſiderable population, which the improved culture of its land, and the increaſing buſineſs of its naval towns, has certainly not ſuffered to diminiſh.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF

ESSEX.

THE county of Eſſex is bounded on the north by Suffolk, on the eaſt by the German ocean, on the weſt by Hertfordſhire and Middleſex, and on the ſouth by the Thames, flowing between it and Kent. It is of an irregular quadrangular ſhape, each ſide being much indented. The ſea coaſt, particularly, is rendered very irregular by creeks and inlets, and declines conſiderably inwards from north to ſouth, forming a ſort of funnel to the mouth of the Thames. The greateſt extent of Eſſex from eaſt to weſt is about ſixty miles; from north to ſouth, about fifty. Its contents are reckoned at 1,240,000 acres.

Rivers.—Of theſe, ſome are boundary rivers, belonging equally to other counties. The *Thames* has all the lower part of its courſe between this county and Kent, flowing in a wide channel, at length expanding into an arm of the ſea, and by its high tides requiring ſtrong embankments to protect the low grounds by which it is bordered.

The *Stour*, which forms the greateſt part of the Suffolk border, riſes near Haverhill, and flowing by the towns of Clare, Sudbury, and Neyland, in Suffolk, and Dedham and Manningtree in Eſſex, ſpreads from the latter town into an arm of the ſea, which joins the German ocean at Harwich. It is made navigable up to Sudbury.

The *Stort*, a ſmall ſtream riſing near Clavering, makes part of the weſtern boundary, from Harley End in Farnham to Roydon, where it mixes with the Lea.

The *Lea* coming from Bedfordſhire and Hertfordſhire, after receiving the Stort, forms the reſt of the ſouth-weſtern boundary to its junction with the Thames a little below Stratford.

Nearly parallel to the Lea runs the *Rodon*, which riſing near Little Eaſton flows ſouthward by Cheping-Ongar, Great Ilford, and Barking, below which laſt town it diſcharges itſelf into the Thames.

The

A MAP of ESSEX

CAMBRIDGE SHIRE

HERTFORD SHIRE

SUFFOLK

KENT

THAMES RIVER

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The *Crouch* riſes not far from Billericay, and running directly eaſt, divides the hundreds of Rochford and Dengey, and falls into the ſea between Foulneſs-iſland and Burnham marſhes.

The *Chelmer*, ſpringing from the neighbourhood of Thaxted, runs ſouth-eaſtward by Dunmow through the centre of the county to Chelmsford, where, receiving a ſtream called the *Cam*, it turns eaſtward, and meets the Pant a little above Maldon.

The *Pant*, or *Blackwater* has its ſources to the north and weſt of Thaxted, whence flowing ſouth-eaſtwards to Braintree and Coggleſhall, it turns ſouth by Witham, and after its junction with the Chelmer, paſſes Maldon, and empties itſelf by a broad eſtuary into the ſea.

The *Coln* riſes in the pariſh of Redgwell, and taking a ſouth-eaſtern courſe, paſſes Caſtle Hedingham and Halſted to Colcheſter, (to which town it gives name) whence it flows to the ſea by the eaſtern ſide of Merſey iſland, the weſtern of which is waſhed by the mouth of the Pant. Theſe two rivers have therefore the ſame wide inlet from the ocean.

Face of Country and Soil.—Eſſex compoſes part of that tract on the eaſtern ſide of England, which forms by much the largeſt ſpace of level ground in the whole iſland, not one lofty eminence or rocky ridge being met with throughout ſeveral contiguous counties. The ſurface of Eſſex, however, is not a dead flat, but is agreeably diverſified with gentle hills and dales, through the latter of which rills of water uſually flow. The higheſt of theſe hills are at Danbury near Chelmsford, and the next in height is the range from Langdon to Burntwood and South Weald. In general, however, the county riſes towards the north-weſt, in which quarter moſt of the rivers ſpring. The moſt level tracts are thoſe of the ſouthern and eaſtern hundreds. The ſea coaſt is broken into a ſeries of iſlets and peninſulas, deeply cut in by arms of the ſea, and exhibiting evident tokens of the violence of that element. Extenſive ſalt marſhes border a great part of the coaſt, protected by embankments, which are frequently giving way to the fury of the wind and tides. The banks of the Thames are likewiſe generally low and marſhy; and a tract of moiſt meadows accompanies the courſe of the Lea and other rivers. A conſiderable part of the ſouth-weſtern angle is over-run by Epping-foreſt and its ſeveral branches, much of which is ſtill in a wild uncultivated ſtate, repreſenting the original appearance of a great portion of this county.

The

The ſoil of ſo extenſive a tract as Eſſex muſt be ſuppoſed to be extremely various. It has, indeed, all the diverſities from the ſtiffeſt clay to the tendereſt loam, and even light gravel. Above half the county may be reckoned a temperate mixed ſoil. A long range of heavier mixed ſoil runs from Cheping-Ongar northwards to the borders of Suffolk, and another occupies the tract between the Blackwater and Crouch, and comes round to the Thames at Canvey-iſland. The greateſt tract of light gravelly ſoil lies north and ſouth of Colcheſter, ſtretching to Harwich. Chalk prevails on ſome parts of the Thames border. On the whole, few counties in England are more favourable to the different products of agriculture.

Climate.—Eſſex proverbially lies under the imputation of an unwholeſome climate; yet the upland parts of it, which conſtitute by much the greater ſhare, ſeem no more to deſerve this character than ſimilar ſituations in other counties. The ſea coaſt, and eſpecially the ſouth-eaſtern parts commonly called the *hundreds of Eſſex*, from their low and marſhy ſituation, and expoſure to the eaſt winds and ſea fogs, have given juſt grounds to the charge of being peculiarly obnoxious to intermittent and other fevers, and their conſequences; and though much has been done by clearing, draining, and cultivating, to correct the badneſs of the air, they are ſtill by no means eligible places for health or pleaſure. The water is perhaps more incurably bad than the air; and in dry ſeaſons it is abſolutely deficient, ſo as to occaſion much inconvenience in the paſturage of cattle.

Agriculture and Products.—In the part of Eſſex near London, eſpecially among the meadows and marſhes of the Thames and Lea, much hay is made for the markets of the metropolis. Further onward, about Epping and Ongar, and on the courſe of the Roding, the land is chiefly devoted to dairy, the great ſupply to London of the fineſt freſh butter being from this quarter. Much pork is here fed from the refuſe of the dairies, and numbers of calves are ſuckled for the London market. Near Ilford, potatoes are cultivated very largely for the ſupply of London. The general agriculture of the county, however, is turned to the production of grain and other objects of tillage, every ſpecies of which is grown in great perfection and abundance by the ſpirited and intelligent farmers with whom Eſſex abounds. The return for the ſeed ſown is for the moſt part greater in this county than in moſt others; and it deſervedly ranks among the richeſt of the farming counties. The ſtiff ſoils in the ſea coaſt hundreds, and in all the other parts acceſſible

acceſſible by water, derive great benefit from manuring with chalk, which is brought at a large expence from the oppoſite coaſt of Kent. In the more inland diſtricts ſuch manures are uſed as can be procured on the ſpot, as marle, clay, town and farm-yard muck, &c. Fallowing is much in uſe in the north-weſtern parts, where large quantities of excellent barley are grown, and malted on the ſpot for the London brewery. Wheat and beans are the chief products of the ſtronger lands in the ſouth-eaſt. Hops are cultivated in the neighbourhood of Chelmsford, and alſo on the upper part of the river Coln, about Hedingham. Turnips and carrots are common on the lighter lands. Coriander ſeed, often along with carraway and teazle, is a ſingular article of cultivation in ſome diſtricts. Much rape, muſtard, cole ſeed, and a variety of garden products, are grown in different parts; in ſhort, there is ſcarcely any object of a ſpirited agriculture in any part of the kingdom which is not to be found in Eſſex. Its improvements have been greatly promoted by its incloſures, which for a long period have been very general throughout the county. The woodlands of Eſſex are extenſive, but not much timber of value is produced from them.

With reſpect to the ſtock of cattle and ſheep kept in Eſſex, they are an intermixture of breeds from various parts. The cows preferred for the dairy are chiefly the Derbyſhire, Leiceſterſhire, and Holderneſs kinds. A Devonſhire breed has lately been introduced with ſucceſs, both for the dairy and for ſuckling. For the latter purpoſe Welch cows are preferred to thoſe which give richer milk. The cattle fed on the marſhes near the ſea are Scots, Welch, and ſome ſhort-horned Yorkſhire, with a few Iriſh ſteers. There are few breeding flocks of ſheep in Eſſex. Thoſe principally kept are the Norfolks, South-downs, and Wilts, with ſome Dorſets for early lambs. Agricultural work is almoſt entirely done by horſes, of which many fine teams are kept at a great expence. Large herds of deer run wild in Epping-foreſt and its branches, and Henhault-foreſt, to the detriment of the adjacent farmers, and the injury of the morals and induſtry of ſome of the neighbouring youth, who commence a career of diſhoneſty by deer-ſtealing.

The quantity of waſte land, including the foreſts, is not eſtimated at more than 15,000 acres; a very ſmall proportion for ſo large a county! There are ſtill ſome open-field lands in the arable diſtricts.

State of Property, and Occupation of Lands.—The landed property in this county is more divided than in many others, there being few over-grown eſtates, though

though many conſiderable ones. The land is moſtly cultivated by tenantry, who are on a reſpectable footing. Farms are generally of moderate ſize: the largeſt are in the ſea coaſt hundreds, where marſhes of great extent are often occupied by individuals.

Natural Productions.—Fiſh are plentiful on the coaſt and in the creeks of this county; and it has long been particularly celebrated for the oyſters which are fattened among the ſalt marſhes below Colcheſter, and about Merſea-iſland. Theſe afford a conſiderable article for exportation, as well to other parts of the kingdom, as abroad.

There are ſeveral decoys for wild fowl along the coaſt.

Eſſex is perhaps leſs of a mineral county than almoſt any in the kingdom, and nothing is ſcarcer in it than ſtone. Some mineral waters, however, have been diſcovered, of a ſaline nature, but none of theſe have retained their reputation except that of Tilbury, near the fort of that name, which appears to be impregnated with earthy and muriatic ſalts. Pyrites are met with in ſome of the cliffs, eſpecially thoſe near Harwich, together with a variety of petrified foſſils.

Manufactures and Population.—The eaſtern counties of England were ſome of the earlieſt ſeats of manufacture in this kingdom, foreigners having at different periods been ſettled in them for the purpoſe of working up the Engliſh wool, which in more early times uſed to be exported in a raw ſtate. Eſſex, however, does not ſeem to have acquired any peculiar branch of manufacture, till the perſecutions, civil and religious, carried on in the Low Countries under the duke of Alva, drove into this country a number of artiſans and workmen, a body of whom ſettled at Colcheſter, where they introduced the manufacture of bays. This branch of trade flouriſhed conſiderably, and ſpread over the neighbouring tract of country, affording plentiful employment for the poor, as well in weaving, as in the ſpinning and dreſſing of wool; and, of courſe, augmenting population. The towns of Bocking, Braintree, and Coggleſhall, eſpecially, participated with Colcheſter in this manufacture; and it ſtill continues to employ a good many hands in theſe places, though it is now on the decline, chiefly from the rivalry of Rochdale and other places in the north of England, where fuel and proviſions are cheaper. The immediate neighbourhood of London alſo gives employment to a number of people in the various works carried on about Stratford. Otherwiſe, Eſſex is almoſt entirely dependent upon agriculture for its population; and the improved ſtate of cultivation

vation generally prevalent furniſhes a demand for labour ſufficient to keep up an appearance of populouſneſs in the numerous towns and villages.

Civil and Eccleſiaſtical Diviſions.—The original inhabitants of Eſſex were by the Romans ranked among the *Trinobantes*. Under the heptarchy this county made part of the kingdom of the ſame name, or of the *Eaſt Saxons*. It is now divided into twenty larger parts, viz. fourteen hundreds, five half hundreds, and one royal liberty. The pariſhes are reckoned at 403; the market towns at twenty-four, but in ſome of theſe the market is diſuſed. Eſſex is comprehended within the Home circuit. Its county town is Chelmsford.

It is in the dioceſe of London, of which it compoſes the greater part; and is ſubdivided into the

Archdeaconry of Eſſex,	containing	7 deanries,	175 churches and chapels.
—— of Colcheſter,	——	5 ——	161 ——
—— of Middleſex (part)	—	3 ——	83 ——
			419

Eſſex ſends eight members to Parliament; viz. two for the county, and two each for Colcheſter, Harwich, and Malden. It pays twenty-four parts in 513 of the land-tax, and furniſhes 960 men to the militia.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF

HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE county of Hertford is bounded on the eaſt by Eſſex, on the north by Cambridgeſhire and Bedfordſhire, on the weſt by the latter county and that of Buckingham, and on the ſouth by Middleſex. Its figure is extremely irregular, running out into hooks and projections, eſpecially on the north-weſtern and ſouthern ſides. Its limits are every where artificial, except for a ſhort ſpace on the Eſſex ſide, where it is bounded by rivers. Its greateſt extent from north to ſouth is about twenty-five miles; from eaſt to weſt thirty-five miles. Its contents have been eſtimated at 451,000 acres.

It has two principal rivers, the Lea and the Coln; the former uniting all the ſtreams of the eaſtern and middle parts; the latter, of the weſtern.

The *Lea*, ſpringing out of Leagrave-marſh near Luton, in Bedfordſhire, croſſes the middle of Hertfordſhire in a ſouth-eaſtern direction to Hertford, where, making a ſemi-circular ſweep, and receiving firſt the *Maram* or *Mimerum*, a ſmall ſtream from Welwyn, and then the *Bean*, which riſes near Yardley, and the united *Rib* and *Quin*, coming down by Standon, it paſſes by Ware, and ſoon after, being joined by the *Aſh*, it turns directly ſouthwards to the Eſſex border near Hoddeſdon, where it receives the *Stort* from Biſhop's Stortford. From this point it makes the limit between Hertfordſhire and Eſſex, and thence flows on between the latter county and Middleſex to its junction with the Thames. The Lea is navigable from Hertford to its termination; its communicating river the Stort is ſo from Biſhop's Stortford.

The *Coln* riſes, a ſmall ſtream, from the neighbourhood of Kit's-end in Middleſex, whence flowing northward, it paſſes North Mims, and turning to the weſt, is firſt increaſed by the *Muſe* or *Verulam-river*, which riſing on the Bedfordſhire border, flows by the ancient Verulam at St. Albans to its junction with the Coln at Colney-ſtreet. Hence the Coln flows by Watford to Rickmanſworth, being firſt joined by the *Gade*, coming down from Gaddeſden to Hemel Hemſted, and bringing with it a ſtream from Berkhamſtead; and then by the *Cheſham* river

A MAP of HARTFORDSHIRE.

BEDFORDSHIRE

CAMBRIDGESH.

ESSEX

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

MIDDLESEX

ODSEY

BROADWATER

BROADHEDWINTREE

BROGHING

HUNDRED

HITCHIN

HUNDRED

Cashio Hund.

Pt of Cashio Hund.

Pt of Dacorum Hundred

Cashio Hundred

Part of Bucks

PIRTON

HITCHIN

HERTFORD

HARTFORD

HARLEDEN

HEMEL HEMSTED

ST ALBANS

WATFORD

WARE

HODDESDON

WALTHAM ABBEY

Scale of Statute Miles

FOLDOUT BLANK

out of Buckinghamſhire. Below Rickmanſworth the Coln leaves the county, and becomes the limit between Middleſex and Buckinghamſhire, to the Thames.

The *New-river*, which ſupplies London with water, has its head near Ware in this county, whence it is carried in an artificial channel parallel and near to the Lea, and enters Middleſex not far from Waltham Croſs.

Face of Country and Soil.—Few tracts of land have a more uneven ſurface than that which compoſes Hertfordſhire. It is an almoſt perpetual rapid ſucceſſion of hill and dale, the eminences gentle indeed, and riſing to no conſiderable height. In general, the country aſcends towards the northern ſide, on the edge of which, bordering on Cambridgeſhire and Bedfordſhire, runs the ridge of chalk hills, which croſſes a great part of the kingdom in this direction. It is on this northern ſide that all the ſtreams above enumerated take their riſe, ſhewing by their clearneſs the ſtony nature of the ſoil through which they take their courſe. The prevailing ſoil of Hertfordſhire is a ſtrong, red, ſhelvy clay, intimately mixed with flints, incumbent upon a bed of chalk, which lies at different depths from the ſurface, and by its excellent quality affords to the huſbandman an inexhauſtible material for improvement. Other ſoils are, various gradations of loam, from the ſtrongeſt to the weakeſt kinds, more or leſs mixed with gravel, and with chalk, which laſt may be ſaid to be the predominating ingredient: alſo, a ſmall portion of moor or peat earth in the beds of rivers and low meadows adjoining; and in one corner of the county a hungry clay full of blue pebbles, fit only for the growth of underwood. In general, Hertfordſhire, though not among the moſt fertile countries to the view, is eminently fitted for the growth of grain. The abundance of flint ſtones in its ploughed lands ſtrikes a ſtranger with an appearance of poverty, which is not verified by fact. On the Cambridgeſhire border it has ſome extenſive open downs, on a thin chalky ſoil, and covered with a fine ſhort turf devoted to the feeding of ſheep.

Climate.—There is perhaps ſcarcely any county in England which in this reſpect can vie with Hertfordſhire; and it is accordingly the reſidence of more nobility and gentry in proportion than almoſt any other. An air pure and dry, but not bleak, equally favours the health of the inhabitants, and the maturation and goodneſs of the products of the earth.

Agriculture and Products.—Hertfordſhire is in high reputation as a corn county. The grains chiefly cultivated are wheat, barley, and oats, for all which ſome

land is found in almoſt every farm peculiarly ſuited. The white wheat of this county is much valued by millers for the fine flour it yields. The barley is malted in large quantities for the London market. Various intervening crops are grown, ſuch as pulſe of all kinds, buck-wheat, cinquefoil, lucern, trefoil, turnips, and potatoes. In the rotation of crops, and the application of manures, the farmers are very ſkilful, and in no country has the art of agriculture triumphed more over natural defects. The manures are various. Chalk is the capital one for the clay lands, and is laid on in large quantities. The beſt is generally reckoned to be that which comes up from the greateſt depth. Farm-yard dung, compoſts, &c. are alſo uſed as in other places; but the ſpring or top-dreſſings are a peculiar feature of Hertfordſhire farming. Theſe conſiſt of ſoot aſhes, malt duſt, and oil-cake duſt or powder. They are applied to ſickly or backward crops upon poor lands, and have a wonderful effect in bringing them forwards and enriching them. Horſes are for the moſt part uſed for the purpoſes of agriculture, though ſome gentlemen have introduced oxen.

The paſtures and meadows of Hertfordſhire are chiefly the hedge greens ſurrounding the corn fields, for the width of fifteen to twenty feet or more. There are however, meadows in the courſe of the rivers and brooks, ſeveral of which have been much improved by the practice of flooding.

As to the live ſtock, it chiefly conſiſts of horſes for the plough, milch cows, and ſheep, principally ewes. Few of theſe are bred in the county; and each farmer purchaſes the kinds which ſuit him beſt. Swine are a profitable ſtock, and ſome attention is paid to their breed.

Hertfordſhire is well wooded; independently of the parks and plantations about gentlemen's ſeats, the greateſt part of the county is ſprinkled with ſmall woods and copſes, occupying the moſt barren and gravelly ſpots. Theſe yield a quick growth of underwood, which is cut periodically for charcoal, fire-wood, and other purpoſes. There is a good deal of oak timber in ſome parts fit for the navy and inferior ſhipping, but not much plank timber.

Occupation of Land.—The farms of Hertfordſhire are of middling ſize, from 100*l.* to 400*l.* or 600*l.* per annum. The rents do not on an average exceed 12*s.* per acre. The land is for the moſt part encloſed, though there are many ſmall common fields lying intermixed, which by agreement are cultivated in the ſame way as the incloſures. The largeſt parcels of common land are on the Cambridgeſhire border.

border. The waſte lands are computed at about 4500 acres; including the ſheep downs on the ſkirts of the county.

Trade and Population.—No conſiderable manufacture can be expected in an agricultural diſtrict like Hertfordſhire, which has, beſides, the capital defect of great ſcarcity of fuel, though this will be in ſome degree remedied by the canals lately projected. At St. Albans, and near Rickmanſworth, are cotton mills for the making of candlewicks; and the neighbourhood of Dunſtable and Luton partakes in the ſtraw-plat manufactory, which affords ſome employment for the women and children. The great buſineſs of the county, next to agriculture, is the malting, which is carried on to a great extent in and about Hertford, Ware, Baldock, Hitchin, Royſton, &c. The malt made here is not only from Hertfordſhire barley, but much is brought from Cambridgeſhire and the iſle of Ely for that purpoſe. It has a ready conveyance to London by means of the Lea navigation, which brings back the coal and coke uſed in the proceſs. On ſeveral of the Hertfordſhire rivulets paper-mills and other works are eſtabliſhed, for which purpoſes they are peculiarly adapted from the clearneſs of their water, and the ſteadineſs of their ſtream. The population of the county is conſiderable on the Eſſex and Middleſex ſides; and the numerous reſident gentry entertain large families of ſervants and dependents.

Civil and Eccleſiaſtical Diviſions.—Hertfordſhire was part of the Roman diviſion of *Cattieuchlani*. In the heptarchy, part of the county belonged to the *Eaſt Saxons*, and part to the *Mercians*. It is now compriſed in the Home circuit, and divided into eight hundreds. Hertford is the county town. There are eighteen nominal market towns, and two parliamentary boroughs, Hertford and St. Albans, which, with the county, ſend ſix members. It pays eleven parts of the land tax, and provides 560 men to the national militia.

Hertfordſhire is partly in the dioceſe of Lincoln, and partly in that of London.

In Lincoln dioceſe, and Huntingdon archdeaconry, are,

Deanry of Baldock,
——— Berkhamſtead,
Deanry of Hertford,
——— Hitchin.

In London dioceſe are,

Deanry of St. Albans, in archdeaconry of ditto.
——— Braughing, in Middleſex archdeaconry.

THE

THE RIVER THAMES.

THE firſt of Britiſh rivers is alſo the great trunk conveying the life-blood to the tract which is deſcribed in the preſent Work. In it unite all the ſtreams which water the adjacent country. It beſtows beauty and fertility on the wide vale through which it takes its winding courſe to the ſea. Its channel connects the metropolis on one ſide with the central parts of the iſland, on the other with the remoteſt regions of the earth; and to it, a number of ſubordinate water-communications by river and canal have their principal reference. It forms a natural limit between the provinces on each hand which it viſits, during almoſt the whole of its tract. To trace it accurately, therefore, from its ſource to its termination, cannot be thought foreign or uſeleſs to our undertaking; and the importance of the ſubject may well juſtify the treating of it in a ſeparate chapter.

Almoſt all rivers are formed in their origin by the conflux of a number of minute ſtreams, none much diſtinguiſhed from the reſt; and the *head* of a river is generally an imaginary thing. The celebrity of the adult has however commonly produced a claim to the infant; and in the preſent inſtance, popular fame has marked out a *Thames-head*, which is a ſmall perennial ſpring in the pariſh of Cotes, in Glouceſterſhire, about three miles from Cirenceſter, and within a quarter of a mile of the great Roman road formerly leading from that town to Bath. We ſhall here cut ſhort all diſcuſſion concerning the true name of the upper part of the river, and the right of the ſuppoſed *Iſis* to ſuperſede the appellation of Thames, by obſerving, that as well in the moſt ancient records, as in common language at the preſent time, the name of *Tems* or *Thames* has been applied to the main ſtream from the ſource, to Oxford and the junction with the Tame, equally as to the river from thence to the ſea.

Such is the copiouſneſs of water in Thames-head, that an engine fixed in it throws up ſeveral tuns every minute into the Thames and Severn canal. The Head, however, does not, during the ſummer months, maintain a viſible connection with the current of the river, and it is only at the village of Kemble in Wiltſhire that a conſtant ſtream appears, which from its conſequence and direction may without diſpute be regarded as the *infant Thames*. Near this place it is croſſed by its firſt rude bridge, and turns its firſt mill. Hence it flows on to the ancient but decayed borough

town

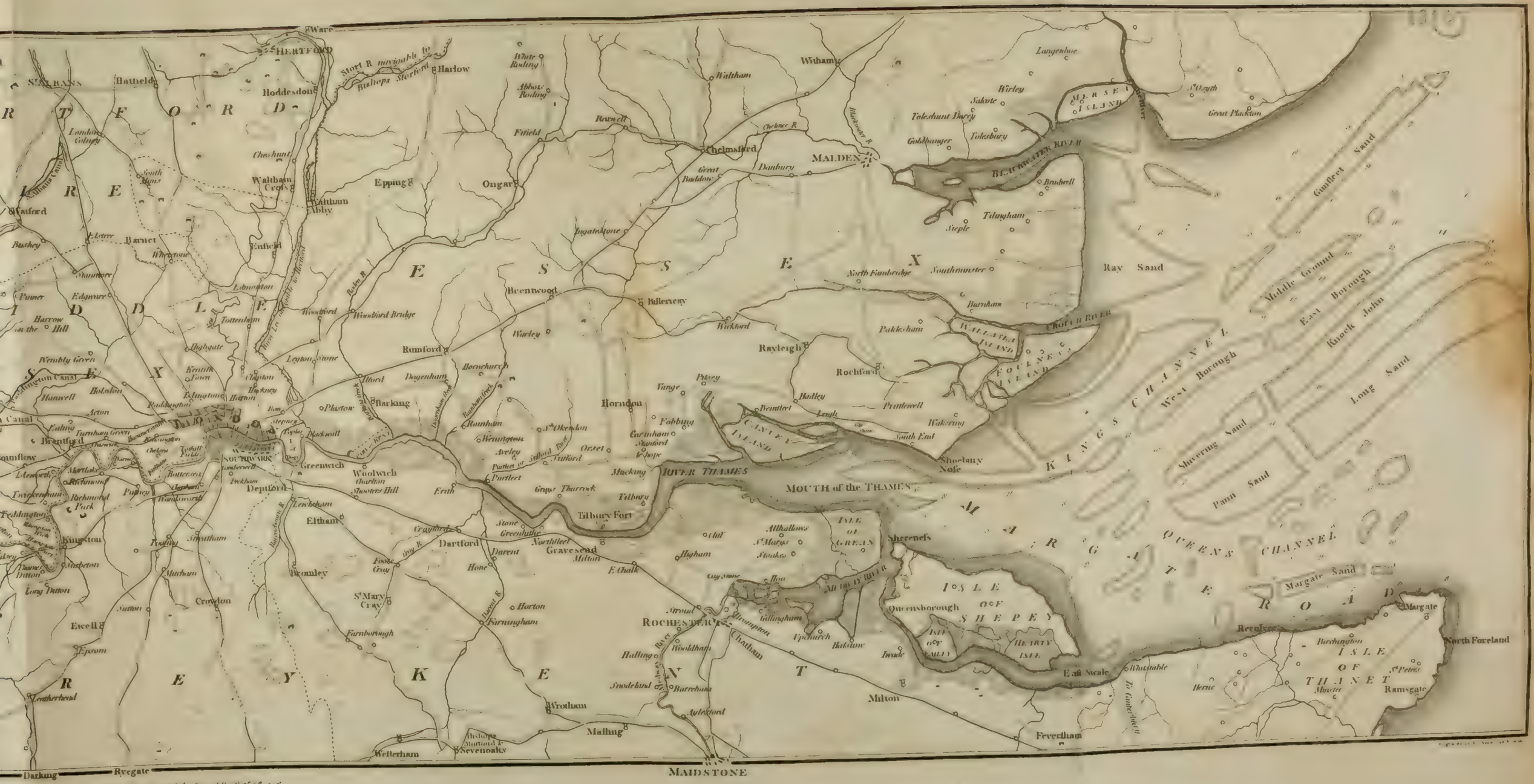
Map of the RIVER THAMES

10 Statute Miles

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GLOC.R SH. OXFORD BUCKINGHAM HERTFORD WILTSHIRE BERKSHIRE MIDDLESEX HAMPSHIRE SURREY

CIRENCESTER
Meysey Hampton
Fairford
Lechlade
Thames Head
Kemble
Somerford Keynes
Ablington Keynes
Cricklade
Highworth
Coleshill
Hannington
Broad Blunsdon
Swindon
Wootton Bassett
Purton
Malmesbury
Chippenham
Calne
Devizes
Marlborough
Ramsbury
Hungerford
Newbury
Speenham Land
Thatcham
Reading
Basingstoke
Andover
Whitchurch
Kingsclere
Newtown
Burbage
Titcombe
Chute
Ludgershall
Bishopston
Baydon
Lambourn
Chilton
Frilsfield
G. Bedwin
Shaw
Tadley
Pangbourn
Purley
Theal
Whitchurch
Hurstbourne
Hurstbourne Tarrant
Overton
Sunning Hill
Winkfield
Wargrave
Shiplake
Henley
Remenham
Hambleden
Little Marlow
Marlow
Bisham
Cookham
Maidenhead
Bray
Dorney
Eton
Clewer
Windsor
Old Windsor
Windsor Park
Datchet
Slough
Upton
Cranbrook
Hedgerley
Burnham
Beaconsfield
Loud Water
Wycombe Marsh
High Wycombe
West Wycombe
Chepping Wycombe
Wooburn
Bulstrode
Hedgerley
Great Marlow
Great Berkhamstead
Hemel Hempstead
Kings Langley
Langley Bury
Chesham
Amersham
Chenies
Rickmansworth
Watford
Bushey
Harrow
Uxbridge
Hillingdon
Hayes
Grand Junction Canal
Harlington
Bedfont
Hounslow
Isleworth
Twickenham
Teddington
Hampton
Thames Ditton
Long Ditton
Kingston
Surbiton
Moulsey
Walton
Sunbury
Laleham
Staines
Penton Hook
Egham
Thorpe
Chertsey
Virginia Water
Bagshot
Blackwater
Hartford Bridge
Frimley
Farnham
Guildford
Godalming
Darking
Weybridge
Oatlands
Cobham
Esher
Ditton
Thame
Hampden
Tetsworth
Lewknor
Stokenchurch
Watlington
Nettlebed
Crowmarsh
Wallingford
Benson
Shillingford
Warborough
Sattwell
Brightwell
Harwell
Chilton
Didcot
Abingdon
Oxford
Wheatley
Church Cowley
Iffley
Sandford
Nuneham Courtney
Clifton
Dorchester
Drayton
Sutton Courtney
Appleton
Kennington
Radley
Sunningwell
Wytham
Cumnor
Botley
North Hinksey
South Hinksey
Eaton
Oakley
Fritford
Marcham
Pusey
Kingston Inn
Buckland
Pusey House
Tubney
Besselsleigh
Garford
Radcot
Standlake
Northmoor
Stanton Harcourt
Bampton
Aston
Witney
Farringdon
R. Ock
Abingdon
Culham
Clifton Hampden
Dorchester
Shillingford
Benson
Wallingford
Crowmarsh
Gifford
Moulsford
East Ilsley
Streatley
Goring
Compton
Basildon
Aldworth
Yattendon
Hermitage
Bucklebury
Inkpen
Kintbury
Hungerford
Chilton
Frilsfield
Speenham Land
Shaw
Thatcham
Newbury
Kennet River navigable to Newbury
Kingsclere
Enhurst
Basingstoke
Tadley
Tetherton
Basingstoke Canal
Port Way
Andover
Whitchurch
Ludgershall
Chute
Titcombe
Burbage
Ramsbury
Chilton
Frilsfield
Hungerford
Speenham Land
Shaw
Newbury
Thatcham
Reading
Theal
Pangbourn
Purley
Whitchurch
Hurstbourne
Overton
Sunning Hill



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town of Cricklade, having firſt received the *Churn*, a rivulet of longer courſe than its own, coming down by Cirenceſter. This acceſſion, with that of other ſmall ſtreams from the eaſtern part of Wiltſhire, renders it, at only nine miles from its ſource, navigable for barges of the burthen of ſix or ſeven tons; and reckoning its navigation from this point, it certainly far exceeds in length that of any other Britiſh river. The penury of water in ſummer, however, has always rendered the navigation of this part difficult and precarious; and ſince the formation of the Canal, which affords ſo much better a communication with Lechlade, this upper part of the river has been almoſt diſuſed for the purpoſe of carriage.

Between Kempsford and Lechlade the Thames is enriched by the tribute of two ſtreams, the *Cole* from Wiltſhire, and the *Coln* from Glouceſterſhire, which laſt, the moſt conſiderable of the two, firſt waſhes the ſmall market-town of Fairford, celebrated for the painted glaſs of its beautiful church. The Thames, now ſenſibly widened, flows on to Lechlade, near which place the navigable canal connecting it with the Severn forms its junction. This noble deſign, one of the great objects of the ſyſtem of inland water-communication, was completed in the year 1789; and from that time, all the great ſea-ports in the kingdom, and all the principal manufacturing diſtricts, have enjoyed a mutual intercourſe of navigation, not expoſed to the winds and waves of the ocean. The diſtance between the two rivers along the canal is thirty-eight miles. From Lechlade the Thames is capable of carrying barges of fifty or ſixty tons burthen, though the droughts in ſummer and floods in winter oppoſe too frequent impediments to their paſſage. Several locks are formed near this part; and the navigation requires theſe aids at proper diſtances as far down the river as Boulter's-lock near Maidenhead, below which they are no longer neceſſary. A little below the town it receives the *Lech*, a ſmall ſtream riſing in the Cotſwold, and running down between Glouceſterſhire and Oxfordſhire.

The Thames, which in the earlier part of its courſe became the limit between Glouceſterſhire and Wiltſhire, now parts the counties of Oxford and Berks. On this limit it is firſt croſſed by Radcot-bridge, a place known in hiſtory as the ſcene of a battle between the Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry IV. with other barons, and Robert de Vere, duke of Ireland, in which the latter was defeated. Near the bridge a cut commences, lately made for the improvement of the navigation, which after paſſing round a meadow, rejoins the river a little below.

Hence,

Hence, at ſome diſtance on the ſouth, the town of Farringdon appears in view, with its pleaſing hill, which commands a beautiful and extenſive proſpect over the valley of the Thames and the circumjacent country. It has been the ſubject of an elegant poem by Mr. Pye, the preſent laureat, whoſe paternal ſeat is ſituated in the neighbourhood. The town of Bampton lies at about an equal diſtance to the north.

Further on, the *Windruſh* empties itſelf into the Thames. This rivulet, taking its riſe in the Cotſwold, paſſes the market-towns of Burford and Witney in Oxfordſhire, the latter famous for its manufacture of blankets. A little beyond this junction, the Thames makes a turn northwards, and flowing by the grounds of Stanton-Harcourt, the ancient ſeat of the Harcourt family, paſſes near Enſham, to the influx of the *Evenlode*; a ſtream, which coming from Worceſterſhire and Glouceſterſhire, croſſes the county of Oxford by the town of Charlbury, and afterwards receives the *Glym*, flowing through Blenheim-park, with which it proceeds to the Thames. Bending round to the ſouth, the Thames paſſes by the ruins of Godſtow nunnery, and ſoon after reaches the city of Oxford. Here firſt its banks are crowned with objects worthy of its fame, though the fictitious and poetical *Iſis* has uſurped the claſſic honours due, according to what we deem the preferable opinion, to the real Thames. The celebrity of this ſeat of the muſes, and the varied magnificence of its ſtructures, in which Gothic ſolemnity is ſingularly blended with Grecian taſte, might alone ſuffice to confer renown on the ſtream which fixed the choice of its ſituation, and contributed to its pleaſure and ornament. Another river, of no inconſiderable magnitude, ſhares, however, in the honours of Oxford; the *Cherwell*, which here makes a junction with the Thames. The Cherwell riſes in Northamptonſhire, ſome miles above Banbury; and holding an almoſt direct ſouthern courſe, paſſes that town, and for ſome way becomes the boundary between the counties of Northampton and Oxford; then croſſing the latter, it winds through a fertile country, and paſſing amidſt ſequeſtered meadows to the eaſt ſide of Oxford, branches into ſeveral ſtreamlets, which at length uniting, iſſue in the Thames.

The water-communication between London and Oxford is certainly known to have been more ancient than the Conqueſt. The length of the diſtance, however, and the difficulties and delays incident to a river-navigation, cauſed that great neceſſary of life, coal, to be a very dear article when brought by this conveyance; wherefore,

wherefore a plan was formed of communicating by means of a canal with the Warwickſhire collieries, which has lately been completed. This canal extends from Oxford to Coventry, near eighty-two miles, and at the latter city makes a junction with another, which communicates with the great chain of inland canal-navigation. As the Oxford canal terminates in the Thames, it makes an important addition to the connections of that river.

Still holding a direct ſouthern courſe, the Thames flows on to Nuneham Courtney, the elegant ſeat of earl Harcourt; whence, making a bend to the weſt, it reaches the town of Abingdon. Within a mile of this place a cut has been made to improve and ſhorten the navigation. Abingdon is a borough-town, and ſends one member to parliament. Its chief trade is in malt, of which it exports large quantities to the metropolis by means of the river. Here the Thames receives the tributary waters of the *Ock*, a rivulet riſing in the vale of Whitehorſe, in Berkſhire; and then, turning again in a winding courſe towards the ſouth-eaſt, it is joined by the *Thame* or *Tame*. This river, which has been ſuppoſed to confer its name on the united ſtream (an honour to which by its relative importance it is by no means entitled) takes its origin in the eaſtern part of the Chiltern hills in Buckinghamſhire, whence, after winding through the ſouthern ſide of Ayleſbury-vale, it reaches the borders of Oxfordſhire, and waſhes the market town of its own name, from which, probably, it receives its appellation. Flowing on ſome way further as the boundary ſtream, it then croſſes Oxfordſhire, and at the village of Dorcheſter, a place of ancient conſequence, mingles obſcurely with the Thames.

Wallingford, mentioned as a conſiderable city in our early hiſtories, and now a handſome borough-town, is the next place of note viſited by the Thames. It contributes to the buſineſs of the river by the large ſupplies of corn and malt which it ſends to the London market. A ſtone bridge of nineteen arches here croſſes the ſtream. Hence, in a directly ſouthern courſe, it flows ſome miles through rural ſcenes of diſtinguiſhed beauty, till, bending eaſtward, it reaches Caverſham-bridge, whence the county-town of Reading appears in full view at a ſmall diſtance, ſituated on the Kennet, which ſomewhat further on pours its copious waters into the Thames.

The *Kennet* riſes on the eaſtern ſide of Wiltſhire, and firſt paſſes the town of Marlborough: then, arriving at the borders of Berkſhire, it waſhes Hungerford. Below this place it divides into ſeveral ſtreams which flow through boggy mea-

dows, in their courſe to Newbury. This is a populous town, and formerly celebrated for the clothing manufacture, now exchanged for the malt and corn trade, of which articles it ſends large quantities to London by the Kennet, rendered navigable for the largeſt barges hence to its junction with the Thames. Reading has made nearly the ſame exchange of commerce, though it ſtill alſo poſſeſſes ſome branches of manufacture, particularly thoſe of ſail-cloth, large floor cloths for painting, and ribands; ſome pins, ſilk handkerchiefs, felts for the paper-makers, and rugs, are likewiſe made here. Its once famous manufactory of gauze is almoſt reduced to nothing. Reading is a parliamentary borough, as well as a provincial capital, and the moſt conſiderable town in its county.

The Thames now makes a ſweep to the northwards, and a few miles onward receives the *Loddon*. This rivulet is compoſed of ſeveral ſtreams, of which that which has the longeſt courſe riſes near Baſingſtoke in Hampſhire. One branch comes down from Oakingham; another croſſes a part of Windſor-foreſt, which gave occaſion to Pope to introduce in his poem of that name the elegant fiction of the metamorphoſis of Lodona, a happy imitation of Ovidian fable. The banks of the Thames are ſoon after decorated with the charming ſcenery of Park-place, the ſeat of the late field-marſhal Conway, where the character of beauty is almoſt exchanged for that of grandeur. The market-town of Henley is the next object, a place of ſome conſequence, governed by a corporation, and participating in the malt and corn trade of the Thames. A ſtone bridge of handſome architecture here croſſes the river.

A little further, the Thames reaches Buckinghamſhire, and taking an eaſtern courſe, after many beautiful meanders, arrives at Great Marlow. This is an ancient borough-town, ſharing in the peculiar manufacture of its county, that of bone-lace, as well as in the proviſion-trade of the river. The *Wick*, a rivulet deſcending from the Wycombes in Buckinghamſhire, next mixes with the Thames, which thenceforth takes a direction to the ſouth declining towards the eaſt for many miles. It ſoon paſſes beneath the lofty wooded banks of Cliefden, a ſeat of renown in the annals of licentious pleaſure, when it was

The bower of wanton Shrewſbury and love.

George

George Villiers duke of Buckingham was its founder. Frederick prince of Wales for ſome time inhabited the houſe; and the earl of Inchiquin is its preſent owner. At the foot of the hill, a beautiful ſpot called Cliefden-ſpring, from a rill which iſſuing from the wood pours its pure waters into the Thames, affords a favourite banqueting place for water parties. Hence the river proceeds to Maidenhead-bridge, an elegant ſtructure of Portland ſtone, conſiſting of ſeven principal and ſix ſmaller arches, leading by the great weſtern road to the neighbouring market-town whence it takes its name.

The next diſtinguiſhed places viſited by the Thames are Windſor and Eton; and few are the objects on its banks from the aſſociation of which it receives more celebrity. Windſor is an ancient borough of conſiderable extent and population; but its fame is ſolely due to its magnificent caſtle, the nobleſt palace of the kings of England, and rendered illuſtrious by ſome of its greateſt characters and events. This edifice, which unites Gothic grandeur with the ſplendour and elegance of later times, was firſt a ſeat and caſtle of William the Conqueror. Many ſucceeding kings made it their temporary reſidence, and added to its conveniencies and decorations; but the prince from whom it received moſt in augmentation and renown, was the warlike and victorious Edward III. whoſe birth here gave him the appellation of Edward of Windſor. He made it the ſeat of his favourite order of the Garter, and enlarged it with many magnificent works under the direction of the celebrated William of Wickham. Few of our later ſovereigns have failed to ſhew their regard for this venerable pile by additions and improvements; and it has long been the conſtant ſummer reſidence of his preſent Majeſty, who has enriched it with many decorations, and beſtowed unceaſing attention on its repair. The caſtle is ſeated on a conſpicuous eminence riſing with a gentle aſcent from the river, over the rich and cultured vale of which, together with an extenſive circle of ſurrounding country, it enjoys a delightful proſpect, while itſelf affords the moſt ſtriking object in all the views of the vicinity. Immediately behind the caſtle, Windſor-park and foreſt ſtretch for many miles into the county of Berks, and by their wild and wooded ſcenery give a romantic caſt to a tract, the ſcene of royal amuſement through many ages, and a favourite theme of poetry.

Eton, on the oppoſite ſide of the river, has acquired its fame from a diſtinction at leaſt as valuable in the eye of a philoſopher as that of its proud neighbour—that of being the ſeat of the principal eſtabliſhment for literary education in the

kingdom. Its college, uniting the purpoſes of a religious with a ſcholaſtic inſtitution, was founded by Henry VI. a prince better fitted for a cloiſter than a throne. Its endowments, which were untouched at the Reformation, have continued to increaſe in value, ſo as at preſent to afford large emoluments to a provoſt and fellows, and to maintain ſeventy ſcholars on the foundation. But theſe are a ſmall proportion of the youth, whom the reputation of the maſters, and other advantages of the place, have for ſome generations drawn hither from all parts of the kingdom. The college affords a ſtriking object to the Thames proſpects, in its majeſtic Gothic chapel, which lifts its airy pinnacles above all the adjacent buildings.

Leaving theſe ſcenes, the river proceeds to Old Windſor, adorned with its numerous villas; and ſoon after, quitting Berkſhire, becomes the northern boundary of Surrey. The firſt conſpicuous object it reaches in this county is Cooper's hill, an eminence ſituated with peculiar happineſs for an extenſive proſpect of the Thames and its banks, Windſor-caſtle, and a variety of fine ſeats. So well did its animating ſcenery inſpire the poet Denham, that the verſes he devoted to it are in a ſtrain ſo ſuperior to his ordinary compoſition, as alone to have ſurvived the neglect into which his works in general are fallen. The green level of Runnymede, which the Thames next waters on the ſame bank, is a celebrated ſpot in the annals of liberty. Here the coward tyrant king John, hunted into the toils by his martial barons, was compelled to ratify that Great Charter of freedom, ſtill conſidered as the baſis of that ſecurity of perſon and property, which has long been ſo peculiarly the bleſſing of Engliſhmen.

Somewhat lower, on the oppoſite ſide, the *Colne* unites its waters with the Thames. This river, compoſed of ſeveral ſtreams from Buckinghamſhire and Hertfordſhire, deſcends from Cheſham and Rickmanſworth to Uxbridge, below which, dividing into ſeveral branches, and paſſing Colnbrook, it finiſhes its courſe near Staines. This laſt is a market town in Middleſex, at which an elegant ſtone bridge is now building over the Thames. Proceeding ſtill ſouthwards, the river flows on to Chertſey, a decayed market town in Surrey, once noted for a rich abbey of Benedictines. Here in humble retirement that very ingenious poet and good man, Cowley, ended his days. Chertſey has an elegant modern ſtone bridge.

Winding away to the eaſt amid pleaſant villas, the Thames next reaches Weybridge, at which place the river *Wey* brings in its tribute. The Wey riſes in Hampſhire, and entering Surrey near Farnham, paſſes the towns of Godalmin and Guilford,

Guilford, from the firſt of which it is navigable to the Thames. Veſſels of conſiderable burden go as far as Guilford; and this acceſſion to the navigation of the Thames will now be much increaſed by the Baſingſtoke canal, which makes a junction with the Wey about a mile above Weybridge. The elegant ſeat of Oatlands, now in poſſeſſion of the duke of York, is next viſited and beautified by the Thames; which ſoon after flows beneath the bridge of Walton, a pile of brick ornamented with ſtone. The fine village of Sunbury, and that of Hampton, are the next objects on the Middleſex ſide; the Surrey border being for ſome ſpace deſtitute of intereſting ſcenery.

At the village of Eaſt Moulſey, the river *Mole* falls into the Thames. This ſmall ſtream, riſing in the ſouthern parts of Surrey, flows by Dorking, and winding through a tract of meadows by Cobham and Eſher, here pours in its ſcanty waters. On the oppoſite ſhore the magnificent palace of Hampton-court riſes to view. This ſtately pile was begun by Cardinal Wolſey, who rendering it too ſumptuous for a ſubject, preſented it to the crown, of which it became one of the nobleſt poſſeſſions. The ancient ſtructure came to decay, but a ſmall part of it forms the preſent edifice, which was erected by king William III. under the direction of Sir Chriſtopher Wren. It was the favourite reſidence of that renowned king, who decorated it with gardens in the taſte of his native country. In the late reigns it has been little occupied by the royal family; and its numerous apartments have been granted as reſidencies to private families, with the reſerve of thoſe peculiarly devoted to the ſtate of a palace, which character it eminently diſplays among the manſions belonging to the crown of Great Britain. A wooden bridge croſſes the river oppoſite the palace.

Hence the Thames, making a ſweep round the park, turns northwards, and ſoon arrives at Kingſton, an ancient market and corporate town of moderate extent, having a conſiderable trade in malt. Its bridge over the river is of great antiquity. A ſmall ſtream called the *Hogs-mill* river coming from the neighbourhood of Epſom, here falls into the Thames. The pleaſing village of Teddington is the next object on the bank, ſaid to derive its name from a corruption of Tide-ending-town. In fact, the tide, though checked by the new bridges which have been erected on the lower part of the river, ſtill continues to reach this place. Teddington was the rectory and reſidence of that moſt worthy man and ingenious philoſopher, Stephen Hales.

The

The Thames now haſtens to thoſe luxuriant ſcenes where the vicinity of the metropolis is perpetually indicated by the creations of art and opulence. The firſt remarkable object on the Middleſex ſide is Strawberry-hill, a villa exhibiting in its architecture and decorations, external and internal, the pureſt imitation of the Gothic ſtyle, under the direction of its preſent owner, Horace Walpole, now earl of Orford. The beauties of Twickenham next appear, where a range of elegant villas, with gardens ſloping down to the water's edge, decorate the ſtream from which they receive their principal charm. Among theſe, that ſo long inhabited by Pope muſt excite the livelieſt intereſt in every breaſt ſenſible to the ſuperior graces of poetry, and the honours of literary fame. The houſe has been ſuited by additions to the occupation of a richer inhabitant, but its original form and the diſpoſition of the grounds have been preſerved with all poſſible attention. The oppoſite ſhore is crowned with the groves of "umbrageous Ham," in the midſt of which is the ancient manſion of Ham-houſe, now the ſeat of the earl of Dyſart, left in its original ſtate of gloomy grandeur.

Hence, through beautiful meadows, interſperſed with charming country ſeats, the river with an eaſy bend takes its courſe to the foot of Richmond-hill, having firſt paſſed the village of Peterſham, emboſomed in trees, and backed by the ſhade of Richmond-park. Richmond is a name aſſociated with every idea of rural beauty in its moſt poliſhed and ornamented ſtyle. It is the country maid faſhioned by the accompliſhments of a capital, and borrowing the graces of ſimplicity rather to ſet off than conceal her charms. In the proſpect from Richmond-hill *all* is elegance and beauty, and the only contraſt is the variety of pleaſing objects. The river itſelf, indeed, divided by iſlands, and impeded by weedy ſhallows, is ſomewhat leſs ſuited to the ſplendid grandeur of the reſt of the ſcenery than might be deſired. From the ſtream, the ſucceſſive ſcenes that come in view are all enchantment—the verdant meads on one ſide, the houſes and ſloping gardens of Richmond on the other, its handſome ſtone bridge, through the arches of which appear other villas, groves, and gardens—all ſtrain the attention to the higheſt pitch of delightful ſenſation.

Richmond, anciently Sheen, was long a part of the royal domains, and poſſeſſed a ſplendid palace, of which the ſmall remains are now occupied by private perſons. Though no more a regal reſidence, it is cloſely connected with the crown by its manor, parks, and gardens. It is itſelf a large and populous village, the reſidence of many perſons of rank and opulence, who have choſen this favourite ſpot for their country

country retreat. That delightful poet and amiable man, James Thomſon, paſſed here the latter years of his life, and derived from its charming ſcenery ſome of thoſe ideas of rural beauty which he has transfuſed with ſuch advantage into his Seaſons. It would be tedious to enumerate all the ſeats and villas which the Thames viſits in its courſe from Richmond-bridge. At the end of the next reach it waſhes Iſleworth, a village in Middleſex: and here receives a ſmall rivulet, the *Crane*, coming from the weſtern ſide of the county by Cranford, and then croſſing Hounſlow-heath, where its waters are employed in working the powder mills, as they are at Iſleworth in turning the large corn mills erected there.

Bending to the eaſt, the Thames now flows between the decorated lawns of Sion-houſe, on the one ſide, and the royal gardens of Richmond on the other. Sion-houſe, once a convent, is now a very magnificent ſeat of the duke of Northumberland. The extenſive walks of Richmond gardens terminate at the village of Kew, rendered celebrated for its royal gardens, adorned with their lofty pagoda and a variety of other ornamental buildings, and containing a palace of plain and neat architecture, which has been chiefly devoted to the younger part of the royal family. The gardens are remarkable for the variety and noble growth of their exotic trees and ſhrubs; and an appendage to them, the botanic garden, is precious in the eye of ſcience, as containing the greateſt and moſt valuable collection of exotic plants to be met with in Europe. All the vegetable treaſures collected in ſo many voyages and travels for diſcovery through the remoteſt parts of the globe during the preſent reign, have been accumulated here: and the *Hortus Kewenſis* of Mr. Aiton is the richeſt catalogue of botanical rarities that has been given to the public.

Oppoſite to Kew is Brentford, the county town of Middleſex, a very long and unpleaſing range of buildings, adding little beauty to the Thames proſpects. The river itſelf, contracted by a line of iſlands overgrown with oziers, loſes here its dignity. It receives, however, ſome tributary waters from the *Brent*, a rivulet coming down through the central parts of Middleſex. At Brentford, alſo, the grand Junction Canal, uniting the canals of the middle of the kingdom with the navigation of the Thames, has its termination. The town carries on a conſiderable trade with London in corn, malt, and other commodities. At the end of the town the river is croſſed by Kew-bridge, a handſome ſtructure of ſtone, lately completed.

Hence, in large flexures, the Thames flows on eaſtward to the metropolis, preſenting in its courſe a repetition of thoſe ſcenes of cultured art and opulence which

it left behind. To art alone, indeed, its banks owe moſt of the beauty which diſtinguiſhes them from mere verdant meadows, ſince the general flatneſs and ſmall elevation of the ſurface afford nothing to aid the natural picture. The river itſelf, indeed, ſenſibly increaſes in grandeur; and its open long reaches give many fine views of lake-like expanſion. Mortlake, Barnes, Chiſwick, and Hammerſmith, with their elegant villas, ſeats, and pleaſure grounds, ſucceſſively enliven the ſtream, while intervening groves of lofty trees ſtill keep up the idea of rural retirement. The villages of Putney and Fulham, connected by a long wooden bridge croſſing the Thames, and rendered ſimilar by the humble tower ſteeple on each ſide, are the commencement of that frequency of building, and buſtle of population, which is henceforth to accompany the river for many miles. The bridge affords a ſtriking ſtation for a proſpect on each hand, of which the firſt object above, on the Middleſex ſide, is the palace of the biſhops of London at Fulham, ſuited by its venerable appearance to the character of the occupiers. Putney is a place of conſiderable extent, and gave birth to ſome celebrated perſons, among whom were Thomas Cromwell, earl of Eſſex, in the reign of Henry VIII. and the late illuſtrious hiſtorian of the Roman empire, Edward Gibbon.

On the Surry ſide, the populous village of Wandſworth ſoon ſucceeds, the greateſt part of it covering a riſing ground at ſome diſtance from the river. The buildings on the river bank are chiefly diſtilleries and other manufactories, which now begin to crowd upon the Thames. At this place falls in the little river *Wandle*, riſing a few miles diſtance in Surrey, and remarkable for the number of mills, printing grounds, and other works, to the purpoſes of which it ſerves during its ſhort courſe. Hence the Thames, bordered by meadows and kitchen gardens for the ſupply of London, flows on to Batterſea, where it is croſſed by a wooden bridge, connecting this village with that of Chelſea. A curious and powerful horizontal windmill, originally deſigned for the grinding and preſſing of rape ſeed, and forming a high and maſſy tower, is the moſt remarkable object on the bank at Batterſea.

Chelſea is a very populous place, now almoſt entirely connected with the weſtern ſide of the metropolis by contiguous buildings. It contains many things worthy of notice; but of theſe, by much the moſt remarkable, in relation to the Thames, is its noble college, or hoſpital for the reception of maimed and ſuperannuated ſoldiers. The extenſive front towards the water is a very conſpicuous object in the proſpect from the oppoſite bank. Beyond it, the phyſic or botanical garden



E. Dayes del.

Storer sculp.

VIEW of the QUEEN'S WALK,

in the Green Park.

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garden belonging to the company of Apothecaries in London, deſcends to the water's edge, and affords the venerable appearance of its aged cedars of Lebanon. The garden and rotunda of that celebrated place of amuſement, Ranelagh, ſoon ſucceeds; and near it, among iſlands of willows, a cut runs up from the Thames, terminating in a baſon belonging to the Chelſea water works, which, by means of a ſteam engine, ſupply not only the village itſelf with water, but throw it into large reſervoirs in the Green and Hyde parks.

The long reach of the river from Chelſea to Lambeth affords fewer objects than the immediate vicinity of the metropolis would lead one to expect; and the ſhores in ſome parts exhibit the ſcenery of ſequeſtered retirement, though the ſtream itſelf is enlivened by the frequent pleaſure-boat. At the next bend, however, the towers of Lambeth, Weſtminſter-bridge and abbey, and the edifices of the two cities, come into ſudden view. The well-known reſidence of the archbiſhop of Canterbury at Lambeth is far from being diſtinguiſhed by architectural magnificence; yet the venerable air of antiquity preſented by its towers, and the avenue of trees bordering the river beyond it, afford no unpleaſing approach to the ſplendid ſcenes that ſucceed. The meanneſs of the irregular line of houſes between the palace and bridge cannot, however, but offend every lover of congruity. The commencement of the city of Weſtminſter on the other bank is more ornamental, though not adequate to the ſituation. The Abbey, indeed, detains the eye by a ſolemn grandeur not unworthy of the ſentiments its name and deſtination inſpire; and the majeſty of the bridge, which beſtrides and ſeems to exerciſe dominion over the broad ſtream that flows beneath, renders it a ſuitable entrance to the ſplendours of the commercial metropolis of Europe.

Weſtminſter-bridge was erected under the ſuperintendence of Charles Labelye, a Frenchman, and by its ſolid grandeur and elegant ſimplicity does great honour to the taſte and abilities of the architect. Its extent is 1223 feet; its arches, of a ſemi-circular form, are fifteen in number, the central one being ſeventy-ſix feet in the ſpan. The piers are ſemi-octangular; and a baluſtrade crowns the works. The breadth within the baluſtrade is forty-four feet. The whole building is of Portland-ſtone, laid with excellent maſonry, and as yet exhibiting no marks of decay. The firſt ſtone was laid in January 1739, and twelve years were employed in finiſhing the ſtructure. Its coſt was 389,500*l.*; a ſum to which a fourth might be added in eſtimating it at the preſent value of money. The grandeur ariſing from ſize,

ſtrength, and proportion, is the characteriſtic of this edifice; and that, with this, the general effect is not that of heavineſs, muſt be regarded as a proof of extraordinary ſkill in the deſigner. From its ſummit one of the fineſt views of the united cities is preſented; their principal objects opening in ſucceſſion to the ſight, as the river makes its large ſweep from Weſtminſter to London, compelling the impenetrable line of buildings to follow the ſame direction. St. Paul's cathedral towers in the centre, the undiſputed monarch of the whole.

To deſcribe with any minuteneſs the edifices which border the Thames in its progreſs through London, would be to write a volume. We ſhall think it ſufficient juſt to ſketch ſome of the moſt remarkable. It is to be premiſed, that foreigners have often obſerved, and with juſtice, that very little attention has been paid to decorate the banks of ſo noble a river in a manner worthy of it, and of the capital it adorns. Inſtead of the uniform and magnificent wharfs and quays which accompany the courſe of much inferior ſtreams in other capitals, the Thames is crowded and deformed by the moſt irregular ſucceſſion of unſightly buildings, devoted to the particular purpoſes of the occupiers, and forming nothing like a grand whole. This, however, could only have been remedied by an original plan; and commercial utility is now become too valuable a thing to be ſacrificed to the pleaſure of the eye. But a ſpirit now reigns of making beauty and convenience coincide wherever ſuch an union is practicable: and its effects are becoming more and more viſible in the wharfs and other buildings on the Thames, as well as in the reſt of the city.

The moſt agreeable objects on the river bank preſently ſucceed Weſtminſter-bridge on the Middleſex ſide. The embankment of Whitehall exhibits a pleaſing mixture of good houſes and gardens. Further on, the ruſtic gate at York-ſtairs, a work of Inigo Jones, ſtrikes the eye. The lofty terrace of the Adelphi, founded upon vaſt arches, and crowned with a line of handſome houſes, is a very laudable example of that union of commercial convenience with elegant architecture which may be hoped hereafter to extend along the banks of the Thames. The ancient palace of the Savoy which ſucceeds, is, in its preſent ſtate of dilapidation, an intereſting object to antiquaries alone. It ſerves as a contraſt to its aſpiring neighbour, Somerſet-place, the only edifice of real magnificence which immediately borders the river. This vaſt pile of modern grandeur, occupying the place of an ancient palace, is more uſefully devoted to the noble deſign of uniting in one ſpot the

greater

greater part of the public offices, together with the national inſtitutions of ſcience and art. The building contains a great quadrangle, having its principal front to the Strand. The river-front conſiſts of a noble terrace raiſed upon a high ruſtic arcade, and ſurmounted by a range of building divided into ſeveral members by the varieties in its plan. However it may offend the eye of refined taſte by its deviation from a grand ſimplicity, the effect of the whole (when finiſhed) cannot fail to be that of diſtinguiſhed magnificence. The Temple, which next preſents its courts and gardens to the river, pleaſes by its cheerfulneſs; and in the mixture of ancient halls and chapels with modern rows of building, recals to mind the academical ſcenery on the banks of the Iſis. Between the Temple and Blackfriars-bridge a new dock and large warehouſe is made for the accommodation of the weſt country barges. The warehouſe is over the dock, ſo that the barges may be unloaded into it with eaſe.

The Surrey ſide of the river for this ſpace offers to the view nothing but a very irregular aſſemblage of private wharfs, timber yards, and buildings devoted to the purpoſes of trade and manufacture. One of theſe alone is an object not unworthy its ſituation, a well-built lofty tower uſed in an improved mode of caſting lead ſhot.

The bending channel of the river at length comes fully to front Blackfriars-bridge, the rival, and as many think, the ſucceſsful one, of that of Weſtminſter. Indeed, the ſtyle of the two bridges is ſo different, that each may be allowed its appropriate excellence without derogating from that of the other. The characteriſtic of Blackfriars-bridge is an airy lightneſs very ſtriking in an edifice of ſuch ſize and real ſtrength. This it has attained by its elliptical arches, of which there are nine, the central one ſtriding an hundred feet. The piers are relieved in their thickneſs by two Ionic pillars ſtanding in a receſs and ſupporting a pediment. The baluſtrade is lower and lighter than that of Weſtminſter-bridge. The whole length of this bridge, from wharf to wharf, is 995 feet; its breadth forty-two feet. Its architect was Robert Mylne. The firſt ſtone was laid October 31, 1760; and it was completed in the latter end of 1768, at the expence of 152,840*l.* It is to be lamented that the ſtone has been ſo ill choſen as to have already incurred ſome ſerious decay and dilapidation. The view from the ſtream at ſome diſtance above this bridge is extremely grand. The beautiful ſteeple of St. Bride's on the left, the bridge in front, with St. Paul's riſing in all its majeſty above it, and a glimpſe

through the arches of London-bridge with the Monument and numerous ſteeples, altogether afford a moſt impoſing maſs of ſcenery.

Paſſing Blackfriars-bridge, the river flows in one ſtraight reach to that of London. A ſtriking object, immediately contiguous to the former bridge on the Surrey ſide, is the ample ſhell of the Albion Mills, now ſeveral years remaining in the deſolate ſtate in which it was left by a fire which deſtroyed all but the walls. To this, on the ſame ſhore, ſucceed warehouſes, dye-houſes, iron founderies, and other works, terminating in an open wharf or ſtreet called Bankſide, which would agreeably bound the ſtream, were the houſes of better architecture. It is, indeed, ſingular that this mean row is the only place affording a public walk of any length on the immediate bank of the Thames during its whole courſe through the cities of London and Weſtminſter; and probably few of the inhabitants of the metropolis have ever enjoyed from it the ſtriking proſpect of the crowd of ſteeples and public and private buildings in the moſt central part of London, which it affords. The London ſhore between the two bridges is a continued range of wharfs, yards, and warehouſes, for the accommodation of that immenſe trade which ſupplies the metropolis with the neceſſaries and luxuries of life, and the materials of commerce. One edifice only, for ſhow and pleaſure, Fiſhmonger's-hall, contiguous to London-bridge, relieves the eye and imagination.

London-bridge, the laſt of the ſtructures of this kind by which the Thames is croſſed in its progreſs to the ſea, and till the preſent century, the only communication between London and Southwark, is a building, the venerable antiquity of which may in ſome meaſure apologiſe for its faults; for the preſent bridge of ſtone, ſucceeding older wooden ones, dates as far back as the year 1209. National vanity called it the wonder of the world; and perhaps the world cannot ſhow ſo huge a maſs of deformity and defect. Its nineteen arches, ſcarcely any two of them alike in ſize or proportion, are all Gothic except the modern central one; and their number, with the thickneſs of the piers, and the enormous ſterlings projecting on each ſide for their protection, ſo dam up the channel of the river, as to occaſion a fall of five feet at low water, the cauſe of an annual loſs of lives, and a great impediment to navigation. Much coſt has been beſtowed on its improvement both in its upper and under parts. The defects of the latter ſeem incurable; but as a road to travel over, it has been rendered equally commodious with the other bridges, principally by taking down a row of buildings on each ſide, with



E. Dayes delt. J. Dadley sculpt.

VIEW of LONDON BRIDGE.

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which it was, within memory, moſt prepoſterouſly loaded, and which reduced its breadth to that of a narrow ſtreet. Its length is 915 feet. The entrance it gives to London from the Borough is rendered ſtriking by the handſome ſteeple of St. Magnus at its foot, the fine column of the Monument juſt beyond, and the numerous public edifices in full view. Some arches of the bridge are occupied by water-works for the ſupply of the city with that neceſſary; and at Hungerford-ſtairs above, and Shadwell below, are other works of the ſame kind. It is a great addition to the utility of the Thames that it yields to the metropolis an inexhauſtible ſource of water, wholeſome, and ſufficiently pure for a variety of purpoſes, as well as copious enough for the ready extinguiſhing of fires. The Thames water continues freſh as far as Woolwich, and even there is brackiſh only a ſpring-tides. It is in peculiar eſteem for watering ſhips in long voyages; a kind of fermentation that it at firſt undergoes, leaving it remarkably pure and ſweet.

London-bridge forms the partition between the river-navigation and the ſea-navigation of the Thames. Immediately below it commences the *Port of London*, and the foreſt of maſts that riſes in direct view, and ſtretches beyond the reach of the ſight, announces the prodigious magnitude of that commerce which ſupplies the wants of an immenſe metropolis, and extends its arms to the remoteſt parts of the globe. The limits of the port reach from London-bridge to the North Foreland in Kent, and the Naze in Eſſex; but the ſhips trading to London uſually moor from the bridge to Limehouſe, in which ſpace it is computed that about 800 ſail can lie afloat at their moorings at low water. This ſpace is called the pool. The part near the bridge, on account of the ſhallowneſs of the water, is occupied by the ſmaller veſſels; the lower part, by the larger. The Eaſt India ſhips come no higher than Blackwall and Deptford. The height to which the ſpring-tides riſe is eighteen feet juſt below London-bridge, and twenty feet at Deptford.

A ſtranger would naturally look for the quays and wharfs made for the accommodation of this great quantity of ſhipping; but he would learn, that except the *legal* quays about a quarter of a mile in length between London-bridge and the Tower, the reſt of the buſineſs is done at the ſufferance wharfs, irregularly interſperſed on the banks, and ſo inadequate to the purpoſe, that lighters are obliged to be employed for the loading and unloading of a great proportion of the goods, to the heavy expence and detriment of the merchant. He would alſo lament the contraction and embarraſſment of the ſtream from the tiers of ſhips moored in the midſt of it,

and

and reaching over from each ſide, ſo as at ſome times ſcarcely to afford paſſage, and liable to various injuries. Theſe evils, however, have riſen to ſuch a height with the increaſed commerce of the river, that they are likely ſoon to enforce the execution of one of the ſeveral plans which have lately been propoſed for the conſtruction of docks and quays on the banks.

Reſuming our progreſs down the river, the firſt remarkable object is Billingſgate-dock, a ſmall baſon for the reception of veſſels, particularly thoſe laden with fiſh, of which article this is the great wholeſale market. A little further is the Cuſtom-houſe, a long regular building, having a wharf to the river. Its front to Thames-ſtreet is rendered difficult of acceſs by the narrowneſs of that long ſtreet, continually crowded with carts, and a moſt incommodious centre of the vaſt commerce of the river. The Tower of London is the next remarkable object; a place, in its triple character of fortreſs, palace, and priſon, of high renown in Engliſh hiſtory, and aſſociated with many of its moſt atrocious events;

With many a foul and midnight murder fed.

Within a large encloſure it contains a great and irregular maſs of ancient and modern building, now ſerving principally for the purpoſes of an armory, an office of ordnance, a mint, a depoſit of records and of the regalia, and a ſtate priſon. The moſt conſpicuous of its ancient edifices, the White Tower, was built ſo long ſince as the year 1078; and, from its name of Cæſar's Tower, it has been conjectured that there was previouſly on the ſpot a mint and treaſury of the Romans, in the time of the later emperors. The tower wharf is furniſhed with a very crowded row of cannon, uſed on rejoicing days. The open ſpace on the city ſide, called Tower-hill, is famous as the place of ſtate executions of perſons of rank; but it is happily a long time ſince it was witneſs to a ſcene of this kind. A very beautiful building is juſt erected on it, for a purpoſe connected with the port of London, and, indeed, with the navigation of the whole kingdom; the Trinity-houſe, belonging to a fraternity whoſe mother-ſeat is at Deptford. This corporation is inveſted with large powers of controul and inſpection over the pilotage of the Thames and other places, and the eſtabliſhment of light-houſes and ſea-marks on all the coaſts of the iſland, as well as various other matters of regulation reſpecting ſeamen.

Below



E. Dayes del.

P. Aubinet sculp.

VIEW of the TOWER.

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Below the Tower, a line of building commences, occupied almoſt entirely by trades and employments connected with the ſhipping; which, under the names of Wapping, Shadwell, Ratcliffe, and Limehouſe, extends along the river to the peninſula called the iſle of Dogs; and acroſs the neck of the iſle, a continuity of buildings runs by the hamlet of Poplar to Blackwall, near which the river Lea entering the Thames forms the ſeparation between Middleſex and Eſſex. From this river near Bow a cut is drawn, which terminating in the Thames at Limehouſe, makes a nearer and better communication for the purpoſes of water-carriage than the old channel.

The oppoſite ſhore from London-bridge downwards is occupied nearly in the ſame manner, by cloſe and narrow ſtreets of warehouſes, workſhops, and habitations of people engaged in naval and commercial buſineſs. After Southwark, the pariſh of Horſleydown ſucceeds, terminating in Rotherhithe (pronounced *Redriff*) in which are eleven dock yards, ſome of them employed in building Eaſt Indiamen and other ſhips of large ſize. Objects of ſplendour or beauty are not to be expected in a tract ſo entirely devoted to uſe, and in which private property is capable of being applied to ſuch lucrative purpoſes. The grandeur of the ſcene conſiſts in the river itſelf, flowing through tiers of ſhips ſtretching beyond the reach of the eye, and all alive with the buſtle of commerce and navigation. This can be enjoyed only by the ſpectator who paſſes through the midſt of it in a boat. The banks are ſo encumbered as to afford not one commodious walk for a view.

From the end of Limehouſe and Rotherhithe the river makes a ſudden turn to the ſouth in its way to bend round that low peninſula, the iſle of Dogs. Croſſing the limit between Surrey and Kent, it immediately arrives in the latter county at the populous town of Deptford, ſo famous for its royal dock and arſenals. It firſt ſupplies, however, a large private baſon, called Greenland-dock, as being principally occupied by ſhips engaged in the Greenland fiſhery, and ſurrounded by buildings for the boiling and preparation of oil, &c. Deptford takes its name from an ancient ford over a rivulet which here flows into the Thames, the *Ravenſborne*, riſing not far from Bromley in Kent. It is navigable for lighters to the place where it is croſſed by the London road to Greenwich. The dock and extenſive arſenals and offices for the navy at Deptford would afford copious matter for deſcription to a writer profeſſedly treating on theſe topics. Some capital ſhips of war are always building here; but it is particularly noted for its vaſt accommodations

dations for the victualling ſervice of the navy. It ſupplies ſome grand and ſtriking objects to the proſpect of the voyager down the river, who is further amuſed with the view of various ſhips of war of the ſmaller ſize, and royal yachts, which uſually line the ſhore oppoſite this place. Deptford moreover poſſeſſes ſeveral private yards for ſhip-building, and manufactories of different kinds, which have made it a town of very conſiderable extent.

A little further, oppoſite the ſouthern extremity of the iſle of Dogs, the town of Greenwich riſes from the ſhore of the Thames, which it decorates with the moſt magnificent ſingle object preſented to the view during its whole courſe. This is the Royal Hoſpital for Seamen, an edifice better ſuited in its ſtyle of architecture to the ideas we ſhould form of a regal palace, than to its preſent humbler but more uſeful deſtination. A palace, indeed, once occupied its ſite, the ſcene of many ſplendid feſtivities in a gay and gallant age, and the birth-place of Henry VIII. Edward VI. Mary, and Elizabeth. After it had fallen to decay, Charles II. reſolved to reſtore it with ſuperior grandeur, and one wing of it was completed for this purpoſe. William and Mary were the founders of the preſent inſtitution, and the building was finiſhed by Sir Chriſtopher Wren, who formed the whole plan, except the two pavillions next the water, which were the work of Inigo Jones. Nothing is wanting to its magnificence, except a central part to connect the whole; the elegant houſe in the park, which occupies that ſtation in the view, being, neither by its poſition nor ſtyle of building, at all adequate to that purpoſe. The idea of lodging the veterans of the Britiſh navy in a palace, may ſeem worthy of the dignity of the firſt maritime power in the world; and the whole eſtabliſhment, by the rank and number of its officers and directors, fills the mind with an appropriate greatneſs of character: yet it may be queſtioned whether the real comfort of the perſons to whoſe uſe it is devoted, might not have been better conſulted by a greater attention to convenience and accommodation, and a leſs regard to ſplendour. The revenues of the hoſpital chiefly ariſe from a monthly ſtoppage in the wages of *all* ſeamen, as well in the merchants' as the king's ſervice; together with the income of the Derwentwater eſtates forfeited in the laſt rebellion.

The park of Greenwich, though ſmall, is very agreeable, from the diſpoſition of its ground, and affords very ſtriking and extenſive proſpects of the metropolis, the courſe of the Thames, and a large tract of adjacent country. It is graced and honoured by the chief aſtronomical inſtitution in the kingdom, the Royal Obſervatory,

vatory, ſeated on its principal eminence, and the ſucceſſive reſidence of men of the higheſt name in ſcience. The firſt meridian is by Engliſh geographers made to paſs through it.

Winding round the eaſtern ſide of the iſle of Dogs, the Thames next reaches Blackwall, a collection of houſes for the accommodation of ſeafaring people and ſhip-builders. Some Eaſt India ſhips uſually lie at moorings before this place, and new ones are continually building in its docks. Here is one of thoſe great private works which are only to be ſeen in a country of commercial proſperity and ſecurity like Great Britain. Mr. Perry, an eminent ſhip-builder, has, at his ſole expence, formed a noble wet dock or baſon communicating with the Thames, capable of receiving a number of the largeſt ſhips, and planned with every poſſible attention to convenience, and even elegance. An extraordinary piece of mechaniſm, for heaving maſts and fixing them in veſſels, forms a very conſpicuous object from its height and bulk. His dry docks, building yards, ſtore houſes, &c. are all in a proportionate ſcale of magnitude. Juſt below this dock, the *Lea* enters the Thames; a river, which, riſing in Bedfordſhire, and croſſing Hertfordſhire, becomes navigable from Hertford, and is highly uſeful in conveying the commodities of the county through which it flows, to the metropolis, and making returns of coals, manure, and other neceſſary articles. The *Stort*, which joins it near Hoddeſdon, prolongs the water-communication as far as Biſhops-Stortford.

From the mouth of the Lea, a reach of the river extends, offering, on the Kentiſh ſide, the pleaſing view of the heights and ſloping woods of Charlton, and terminating with the town of Woolwich. The Eſſex ſhore, here, and for many miles further, preſents nothing but a level of marſhes. Woolwich is a place of conſiderable note and conſequence, as containing the moſt ancient of the royal docks and arſenals. The dock is at preſent exceeded by others in buſineſs; but as a magazine for ordnance and military ſtores, Woolwich ſurpaſſes any other place in the kingdom. Its park, warren, and laboratory, afford a prodigious diſplay of deſtructive machinery, and continually reſound with the "dreadful note of pre-"paration." Cannon are caſt, bored, and proved here, bombs charged, and cartridges made. It is likewiſe the well-adapted ſeat of a royal military academy, in which young gentlemen are taught the ſciences of fortification and engineering, and other branches of the profeſſion of a ſoldier. There are extenſive barracks on the hill above Woolwich, in which a number of troops are always ſtationed.

Before the town, ſome of the hulks, thoſe watery receptacles of petty criminals, are generally lying, and their occupiers are employed in labour about the dock and warren, or in heaving ballaſt for ſhipping.

Behind Woolwich, at the diſtance of two miles from the river, is Shooter's-hill, a place worth mentioning in connection with the Thames, on account of the noble proſpect it affords over all the ſcenery we have been deſcribing, and much of the remainder of our courſe. London and its vicinity, the plains and woods of Eſſex, Greenwich, Woolwich, and the adjacent country, and the majeſtic windings and long reaches of the Thames, now bearing on its boſom the freight of navies, all lie in full view beneath it. On the other ſide, the varied and richly-wooded county of Kent extends to the utmoſt ſtretch of viſion. If Richmond-hill can boaſt of ſofter and more delicious charms, Shooter's-hill may claim a fair precedence for variety and grandeur.

At a ſmall diſtance below Woolwich, *Barking-creek* enters the Thames, navigable for ſmall veſſels to the town of that name. Into this flows the *Roding*, a rivulet riſing near Dunmow in Eſſex, and paſſing by Ongar through the ſouth-eaſtern part of the county. *Dagenham-creek*, going up to Rumford, next joins the Thames. Near its influx, the river, in the year 1707, urged by a ſtrong tide, made a breach in the embankment which borders it, which overflowed a thouſand acres of rich marſh-land, and was not cloſed without vaſt difficulty and expence. The name of *Dagenham-breach*, and a pool of fifty acres, ſtill diſtinguiſh the ſpot. Other creeks ſucceſſively join the river from the Eſſex marſhes. The oppoſite Kentiſh ſhore is edged at ſome diſtance from the water with woody heights, one of the moſt conſpicuous of which crowns the village of Erith, a ſmall river-haven, at which the homeward-bound Eaſt Indiamen frequently ſtop to be lightened of part of their cargoes. Near Erith is one of the few villas which grace this lower part of the Thames, Belvedere-houſe, the ſeat of lord Eardley, the fine proſpect from which ſcarcely compenſates its ſituation ſo near the unhealthy marſhes.

At the next turn of the river commences the very ſtraight channel of Long Reach; near the entrance of which, on the Kentiſh ſide, the *Darent* brings in its tributary waters. This river, riſing near Weſterham, winds through a fine valley decorated with many beautiful ſeats, and taking its way directly northwards, arrives at the market-town of Dartford, whence in its ſhort courſe to the Thames it is navigable for ſmall craft, under the name of Dartford-creek. Before its

junction, it receives an addition from the *Cray*, a rivulet that gives its name to ſeveral villages in its courſe, and is croſſed by the London road to Canterbury at Crayford.

Oppoſite, on the Eſſex ſide, is Purfleet, a place noted for its large magazine of gunpowder, conſtructed with admirable ſtrength and contrivance. It has alſo quarries of chalk, of which great quantities are burned into lime on the ſpot. A creek, or rivulet, here enters the Thames. Greenhithe, on the Kentiſh ſide, at the other extremity of Long Reach, has alſo a great traffic in the chalk and lime produced from the range of chalk-hills which here border the river, and afford ſomewhat romantic in the appearance of their broken rocks. A ferry for horſes and cattle makes a communication between Kent and Eſſex at this place. At Ingreſs, in the neighbourhood, is the elegant ſeat of D. Roebuck, Eſq.

The river now makes a bend, called St Clement's Reach, ending at the ſmall market-town of Gray's Thurrock on the Eſſex bank. Hence, through the South Hope, it arrives at Northfleet, on the Kentiſh ſide, a place remarkable for its chalk cliffs, which yield many curious foſſils to the naturaliſt, and afford a ſingular object from their excavations. One of theſe has been ingeniouſly wrought into a dock for ſhip-building. Chalk and lime are largely exported from theſe quarries.

The ſtraight reach of Graveſend commences from this point, diſtinguiſhed by the town of that name on the Kentiſh ſhore. Graveſend is a place of note in the Thames navigation, being the firſt port from the entrance of the river, and that from whence all outward-bound ſhips take their departure after being viſited by the cuſtom-houſe officers, and where moſt homeward-bound ones ſet on ſhore their captains and paſſengers. Many veſſels are continually at anchor before it, and receive from it ſupplies of proviſion, eſpecially freſh vegetables, which are grown in great quantities in the gardens ſurrounding the town. A horſe-ferry here communicates with the Eſſex ſhore; on which, directly oppoſite to Graveſend, is erected Tilbury-fort, a regular fortification furniſhed with a great number of large cannon, and the chief defence of the channel of the Thames. Weſt Tilbury, in its neighbourhood, was the place of encampment of the principal army of queen Elizabeth at the time of the intended Spaniſh invaſion. A mineral alterative water of ſome reputation has been diſcovered at Tilbury.

The river, bordered by a continued tract of marſhes, bends northwards round the point of land at Eaſt Tilbury, and forms a widened channel called the Hope, A ſmall ſtream falling in from Stanford-le-Hope, forms *Mucking-creek* on the Eſſex ſide; from the mouth of which the Thames holds a direct eaſtern courſe to the ſea. It firſt waſhes and inſulates a low marſhy tract in Eſſex, called Canvey iſland, the ſtrand of which is noted for the cockle ſhells by which it has been covered from remote times. A branch of the river on the eaſtern ſide of this iſland is called Leigh-road, from the town of that name on its bank, a place much frequented by hoys and ſmall craft. Ships occaſionally anchor in this road. Juſt beyond Leigh is a ſtone marking the boundary of the juriſdiction of the city of London as conſervator of the Thames.

Still keeping along the Eſſex coaſt, South-end, lately brought into faſhion as a watering place, diſplays its new buildings. Its ſituation in a dry and woody country, with the noble proſpect it affords of the entrances of the Thames and Medway, will not probably long induce the invalid to ſeek for a reſtoration of vigour in the vicinity of ſome of the moſt unhealthy tracts in England, eſpecially during the autumnal ſeaſon of ſea bathing. Shoebury Noſe or Neſs preſently ſucceeds; the termination of the *mouth of the Thames* on the north ſide.

The Kentiſh coaſt, forming the ſouthern limit of the Thames-mouth, after receding in ſuch a manner as to give a ſudden expanſion to the channel, terminates with the marſhy iſle of Grean or Grain, lying between the Thames and Medway, and cut off from the main by a narrow creek joining the two rivers. From the point of this iſland to that of Shoebury is a diſtance of ſix miles, with this breadth the Thames majeſtically mingles with the ſea, which may be ſaid immediately to commence from the floating light upon the Nore, a ſand bank lying in mid channel.

The river *Medway*, though it cannot be called a tributary to the Thames, ſince they do not join their ſtreams till each is loſt in a common arm of the ſea, yet is ſo connected with it in reſpect of navigation, that it deſerves ſome particular notice in the preſent deſcription. The principal river of Kent, acroſs which county it flows from the borders of Surrey and Suſſex, it ſerves during the greateſt part of its courſe for the conveyance of commodities to and from the parts adjacent to its banks. The county town of Maidſtone, and the city of Rocheſter, are among the places it viſits; but its chief importance ariſes from the commodious ſtation it affords

affords for a conſiderable portion of the Britiſh navy. The largeſt men of war can proceed up this river as far as Chatham, where in time of peace a number of them are laid up in perfect ſecurity. The principal of the royal docks is here ſituated, and moſt of the firſt-rates are built in its yard. The dock ranges along the river bank for near a mile in length; and its naval arſenals, and other edifices for the ſervice, are of capital magnitude, and diſpoſed with admirable order and convenience. They are protected by a ſtrong line of fortifications, in which are included large barracks for the lodgment of the ſoldiery. It is preſumed that there is now little danger of a repetition of the inſult which the Dutch offered to our maritime power in the inglorious reign of Charles II. when vice-admiral Van Ghent, ſailing up the Medway as far as Chatham, deſtroyed ſeveral large ſhips. A further defence is afforded by the ſtrong fort of Sheernefs, ſituated on the northerly point of the iſle of Shepey, directly oppoſite the entrance of the Medway from the ſea. A dock, dependent on that of Chatham, has been eſtabliſhed here. Stangate-creek, a little way within the Medway, is well known as the place where veſſels coming from ſuſpected countries perform quarantine. The conſervatorial juriſdiction of the city of London extends up the Medway to a ſmall diſtance from Chatham; a proof that this water was conſidered as one of the creeks or branches of the Thames. The great utility of a naval ſtation ſo near the metropolis, and having a ready communication with the docks and arſenals on the Thames, need not be pointed out. The channel ſeparating the iſle of Shepey from the main land, called the *Swale*, may alſo be reckoned one of the communicating branches of the two rivers, ſince either may be entered from it without going out to ſea. In this channel is the ſmall port and borough of Queenſborough; Milton, celebrated for its oyſters, and Feverſham, have alſo a communication with it by their creeks.

Having thus, with ſome minuteneſs, traced the Thames from its ſource to its entrance into the ſea, we ſhall briefly ſum up, as it were, its character among our Engliſh rivers.

Holding a courſe from weſt to eaſt acroſs that part of the iſland which approaches to the wideſt in this direction, it has obtained more room for its developement than any other of our ſtreams, and conſequently paſſes over a greater ſpace between its head and its termination. A ſtraight line drawn on the map from Thames-head to Shoebury-neſs meaſures by the ſcale between 120 and 130 miles, a very conſi-

derable

derable portion of the central ſurface of England; but this diſtance would probably be fully doubled by following all the windings and deviations of its channel. Taking its origin from a tract rather elevated than mountainous, it partakes nothing of the nature of a torrent, but from the firſt flows calm and gentle, without rapids or cataracts, and is fitted for navigation as ſoon as it has a body of water ſufficient to float a veſſel. Its acceſſory ſtreams have in general the ſame character; ſo that it proceeds as it began, in ſmooth and tranquil lapſe. Its channel is no where rocky: the bottom is either gravel or clay, affording growth to numerous aquatic plants, the ſhelter of the ſcaly tribe from the purſuit of lawleſs fiſhers. In no part of its courſe does it force its way through oppoſing rocks, or ſtruggle in a pent-up bed amid over-hanging crags, like the rivers of alpine regions: the gently-riſing hills that ſometimes croſs its way are eluded by its eaſy flexures; and if it now and then laves the foot of a bold aſcent on one of its banks, the other is bordered by a level mead. Hence, in the eſtimate of its pictureſque beauties, the romantic is almoſt entirely to be left out of the catalogue: the ſweet, the ſoft, the ſequeſtered, the rich, and the majeſtic, compoſe the liſt of its diſtinguiſhing charms, and are blended with each other in all poſſible variations. The number of iſlands that it forms in its bed, ſufficiently prove the gentleneſs of its current, and add to its rural character, while they ſomewhat take off from its dignity; but theſe become gradually fewer as the river is ſwept by a ruſhing tide, and they entirely ceaſe ſome miles above Weſtminſter. The tract of country through which the Thames flows ſcarcely in any part wears the features of harſhneſs or ſterility. Its ſcenes are a ſucceſſion of rural beauty and opulence, though perhaps a tameneſs of character is too prevalent on the whole. It deſerves the name of a plain, rather than of a vale, the elevated grounds on either hand being frequently ſo diſtant, and their acclivity ſo gentle, as to give no idea of any intervening depreſſion of ſurface. The artificial ornaments of villas, edifices, and pleaſure-grounds, muſt be allowed to contribute greatly to the formation of ſome of the moſt admired landſcapes of the Thames, which without them would only diſplay the common beauties of a fine country. The river itſelf, where it begins to hold a conſiderable breadth, ſwelling to the brink, and "without o'erflowing full," is the capital object in the view. It is always elegant, and not unfrequently grand. In common with all other river-navigations, that of the Thames is ſubject to the oppoſite interruptions of inundation and drought; but its floods are not ſo ſudden or violent

violent as thoſe of the Severn, and many other Engliſh rivers. Scantineſs of water is a much more frequent complaint. To compare the Thames with the principal rivers of the European continent, or, in the tumid language of Thomſon, to call it "king of floods," is only to injure it by a parallel which it were abſurd to ſuppoſe it could ſuſtain; yet, independently of the greatneſs it acquires by aſſociation, it has intrinſic merits which muſt ever ſecure to it a reſpectable rank. Few of the moſt celebrated rivers of Europe afford a length of navigation for large ſhips equal to that of the Thames in point of ſafety, eaſe, and regularity; and certainly no European metropolis is ſo much benefited by its river as London by its Thames.

NAVIGABLE

NAVIGABLE CANALS.

IN the preceding account of the Thames we have curſorily noticed all the canal navigations communicating with it; but we ſhall now more particularly deſcribe thoſe which have their courſe through that tract of country which is the ſubject of this work.

BASINGSTOKE CANAL.—The firſt of the new communications with the Thames opened by means of canals, was that to Baſingſtoke in Hampſhire. A ſcheme was propoſed ſo early as 1772 of making a canal from this place, which ſhould join an intended canal from Reading to Monkey-iſland in the Thames near Maidenhead; but the whole of this plan was defeated by the oppoſition of the land-owners. At length in 1777, conſent was obtained to an act for cutting a canal from Baſingſtoke to the river Wey, near Weybridge, where it falls into the Thames, which has for ſome time paſt been fully completed.

It begins at a place called Newman Springs, near the village of Baſing. Thence, making a turn northwards round Tilney-hall, it returns almoſt to Odiham, and then proceeds eaſtward by Alderſhot to the border of Surrey, where it croſſes Dead-brook, which divides the counties. It next paſſes through the north-eaſtern corner of Surrey, by Purbright and Horſhell, to its termination in the river Wey, about two miles above Weybridge. Its whole length of courſe is near forty-four miles. One important object of this canal is the carriage of ſhip-timber from the woods in Hampſhire to the public and private dock-yards on the Thames. It may alſo be expected to aid the agricultural improvement of that very ſterile part of Surrey through which it paſſes, by the conveyance of lime and other manures. A ſecond act was paſſed relative to this canal, empowering the proprietors to borrow an additional ſum of money for its completion.

The canal from Oxford to Coventry, forming a communication between the Thames and the whole ſyſtem of midland navigation, was noticed when we came to the city of Oxford in purſuing the courſe of that river. But this union with the Thames at a part ſo diſtant from the ſea, and often ſo difficultly acceſſible by veſſels of any burthen, did not ſatisfy the ſpirit of commerce; and it was more-


Grand Junction Canal
Berkhamsted
Hemel Hempstead
St. Albans
Hatfield
Hertford
New River Head
Hoddesdon
R. Stort Navigable to Bishops Stortford
Chelmsford
Chesham
R. Colne
Ongar
Epping
Waltham
Amersham
Watford
St. Albans Canal
Barnet
New River
Enfield
R. Lea Navigable to Hertford
R. Roding
Ingatestone
Billericay
Brentwood
Rickmansworth
Beaconsfield
Romford
Brent
Paddington Canal
Uxbridge
LONDON
Bourne Brook
Ingerbourn River
River
Grand Junction Canal
Isle of Dogs
Colnbrook
Brentford
Windsor
Woolwich
Greenwich
River Thames
Navigable to Cricklade
Ravensbone R.
Gravesend
Staines
R. Wandle
Kingston
Bromley
St. Mary Cray
Chertsey
River Thames
Croydon
Weybridge
R. Darent
R. Medway
Ewel
Epsom
Basingstoke Canal
Godalming
R. Mole
Maidstone
Sevenoaks
R. Wey Navigable to
Guildford
Ryegate
Dorking
Tunbridge
Navigable to Tunbridge
MAP of the CANALS
Pub.d Oct.r 20.th 1798 by John Stockdale, Piccadilly.
Scale of British Miles
2 4 6 8 10

over deſirable to extend the benefits of water communication through other inland parts which were in great want of ſuch an advantage. A plan was therefore formed by the marquis of Buckingham of drawing a line from the Oxford canal to meet the Thames in Middleſex; and in the year 1793, an act of Parliament paſſed "For making a Navigable Canal from the Oxford Canal Navigation, at Braunſton, in the county of Northampton, to join the river Thames at or near Brentford, in the county of Middleſex; and alſo certain collateral cuts from the ſaid intended Canal."—The name affixed to this navigation was the GRAND JUNCTION CANAL. Another act paſſed in 1795 to enable the proprietors to make a variation in the courſe, and for ſome other purpoſes.

The general courſe of this canal is from north-weſt to ſouth-eaſt. Beginning in Northamptonſhire, on the border of Warwickſhire, not far from Daventry, it paſſes between Northampton and Towceſter to the neighbourhood of Stony Stratford, where it croſſes the Ouſe and enters Buckinghamſhire; then after making a bend towards Newport Pagnel, it proceeds to Fenny Stratford, Leighton Buzzard, Ivinghoe, and entering Hertfordſhire, paſſes cloſe to Berkhamſted. Thence, running parallel to the Bulbourn river, and croſſing the Gade, it paſſes King's Langley, and cutting through Grove-park and Caſhiobury-park (belonging to the earls of Clarendon and Eſſex) it makes a turn eaſtward oppoſite to Watford, and reaches Rickmanſworth. Hence it accompanies the river Coln, frequently croſſing its branches, to Uxbridge, ſome diſtance below which, it turns directly acroſs the weſtern part of Middleſex, and going through Norwood, winds round the northern extremity of Oſterley-park, near which it arrives at the banks of the Brent, and cloſely accompanying the courſe of its ſtream, enters the Thames with it between Sion-houſe and New Brentford.

The extent of this canal is full ninety miles, excluſive of collateral cuts. It paſſes through two tunnels, in length, together, near three miles. It has 121 locks, dividing between them a riſe and fall of 796 feet, of which, 417 feet is the elevation of the Oxford canal at the junction, above the Thames at Brentford. There are collateral cuts to Daventry, one mile and a half; to Northampton, five miles; to Stoney Stratford, one mile and a half; and to Watford, two miles. On Aldenham-common, near Elſtree, a reſervoir is made covering eighty-two acres, three roods, and one pole. With the cock only half turned this lets out one third as much water as runs in the Coln.

The fixed rates of tonnage on this canal are, for lime and lime-ſtone, one halfpenny per ton per mile; for ſtones, bricks, tiles, ſlate, &c. iron-ſtone, pig-iron, and lead, and all manure, (except lime) three farthings ditto; for cattle of all kinds, one penny ditto; for coal and coak, one penny farthing ditto; for all other goods, one penny halfpenny ditto. Coals are forbidden to be conveyed by the canal nearer to London than Grove-park, in Hertfordſhire.

This canal is yet in an unfiniſhed ſtate. The navigation is completed from the Thames to within a mile of Rickmanſworth; and at the other end, from Bliſworth, oppoſite Towceſter, to the Oxford canal. Other intermediate parts are in forwardneſs; and it is expected that the whole line, with the collateral branches, will be fit for navigation in about three years. That very able gentleman, Mr. Jeſſop, is the ſuperintending engineer, and Mr. James Barnes the executive one, whoſe indefatigable exertions in the company's ſervice, and the abilities he has ſhewn in the execution of the works, juſtly entitle him to great praiſe, the parts already completed being ſuperior to any of the like kind.

On tracing the courſe of this navigation, it will be found to paſs through a country chiefly agricultural, but well peopled and opulent. The great articles of carriage may be expected to be, coal brought from the Warwickſhire and Staffordſhire pits, lime, and manure of other kinds, and building materials. The advantages to be derived from greater plenty of fuel, and cheapneſs of manure, are almoſt incalculable to a country hitherto ſo much out of the courſe of the ready conveyance of theſe commodities, ſo eſſential to all improvements. Its interference with the Oxford canal is compenſated by certain agreements between the two companies, by which conſiderable rates are to be paid for goods paſſing from the Oxford to the Junction canal. The metropolis cannot but be benefited by ſuch an addition to its communication with the heart of the kingdom.

The proprietors of the Grand Junction Canal have erected a capital warehouſe with a wet dock communicating with the Thames, between Blackfriars-bridge and the Temple, for the accommodation of all veſſels navigating on their canals, and thoſe connected with them, to London. This dock is ninety feet in length, and ſixteen in width; and the building above is 132 feet long, and forty-five wide, with three floors. One veſſel at a time lying under the building within cover may be loaded and unloaded very ſpeedily by means of machinery; while goods may be loading and unloading by cranes from different parts of the building without

without interfering with this. The whole is one of the completeſt plans of a warehouſe and docks on a ſmall ſcale, as yet eſtabliſhed on the Thames. We have already noticed it as an object on the river at page 43.

It is computed that the whole expence of the Grand Junction canal, with all its cuts and collateral branches, will amount to 800,000*l.*

Buckingham, Aylesbury, and Wendover, Canals.—In the enſuing ſeſſion of Parliament, 1794, an act paſſed for making navigable cuts to the Grand Junction canal from the towns of Buckingham, Ayleſbury, and Wendover. That of *Buckingham* is to join the collateral cut made from the Junction canal to Old Stratford, at that place. Its length, ſomewhat more than nine miles, with ſeven locks, and a riſe of forty-two feet. That of *Ayleſbury* is to join the Junction canal in the pariſh of Marſworth, Buckinghamſhire. Its length, ſomewhat leſs than ſeven miles, with eleven locks, and eighty feet fall. That of *Wendover* is to make navigable the cut or feeder before allowed to be made from Wendover to the ſummit level of the Junction canal at Bulbourne in the pariſh of Tring. Theſe communications will tend very much to the advantage of thoſe parts of the country through which they paſs, which abound with corn and proviſions, from which the London market derive great ſupplies, and where fuel is ſcarce, and at all times immoderately dear.

St. Alban's Canal.—In 1795 an act paſſed for making a navigable canal from the collateral cut of the Junction canal at Watford, to the town of St. Alban's. The diſtance is eight miles and three quarters, in which ſpace there are to be eleven locks, with ſeventy-five feet riſe. No tract on the courſe of the canals within the limits of our ſurvey, perhaps, more than this ſtands in need of the benefit of water-carriage with reſpect to the neceſſary article of coal, which is at preſent ſupplied to St. Alban's only by land from London, at an expence which makes an enormous addition to the high price paid for it at the market of the capital. Little progreſs has as yet been made in the execution of this uſeful deſign.

Paddington Canal.—The ſame year, 1795, produced another act for the extenſion of the communications of the Grand Junction canal, remarkable as being the firſt ſcheme for a canal navigation to be brought directly to the ſuburbs of the metropolis. From the Junction canal at Bull-bridge-brook, near Cranford-park, in the precinct of Norwood in Middleſex, it is to paſs through Northolt, Greenford, and Perivale, to Apperton in Harrow pariſh, thence acroſs the Brent to Twyford,

and proceeding in a pretty ſtraight line, to terminate at Paddington by the ſide of the Edgware road, nearly oppoſite to the part where the City road falls into it. The length of this branch will be thirteen miles and a quarter, all on the level; which will be a great advantage to the navigation in point of ſpeed and pleaſure. Beſides the common objects of water-carriage, it cannot be doubted that the conveyance of paſſengers will prove a very material article in the buſineſs of this canal; and it is difficult to form any eſtimate of the numerous parties of pleaſure which the novelty of paſſage-boats gliding acroſs the fields of a beautiful country will attract from the crowded metropolis on the leiſure days of ſummer.

The tract of this canal is now marking out by the ſurveyors, and it will be completed with as much expedition as the nature of the undertaking will admit. The village of Paddington and its neighbourhood will probably in a few years experience a great augmentation, in conſequence of an act obtained in 1795, by the biſhop of London, lord of the manor, enabling him to grant leaſes of the lands belonging to that ſee, with powers of renewal on fixed terms, ſo that the purchaſers will poſſeſs moſt of the advantages of freehold. A wharf and warehouſes are to be erected for the canal company, and a market place for the accommodation of the inhabitants.

An idea has been entertained, which we hope will be put in execution, of continuing the Paddington canal round the northern ſkirts of London into the Thames, one ſide or other of the iſle of Dogs. This would prove extremely beneficial, particularly in the carriage of heavy articles, ſuch as coal, ſtone, lime, and timber, which are now conveyed at a great expence by horſes to thoſe parts of the town where new buildings are chiefly carrying on. It would likewiſe afford a cheap and ſafe conveyance of paſſengers to and from the eaſtern and weſtern ſides of the metropolis.

NEW RIVER.

TO the preceding account of *navigable* canals, it may not be unacceptable if we ſubjoin a more particular deſcription than we have yet given of a canal or aqueduct for the *ſupply of water* to the metropolis—deſerving notice, as well for its magnitude and contrivance, as its utility.

Though the water of the Thames is for many purpoſes highly beneficial to London, yet its purity is liable to ſo many alterations, that a copious ſupply of unpolluted element is an extremely deſirous addition. Further, the Thames water muſt be forced to aſcend by machines before it can be diſtributed even to the lower parts of the town; whereas a ſtream brought from the country to the northern ſide of London may by its own gravity be made to flow in a natural deſcent to any quarter of the widely-extended metropolis. From theſe conſiderations, a ſpirited individual in the reign of James I., Sir Hugh Middleton, citizen and goldſmith, a native of Denbighſhire, propoſed the ſcheme of bringing a ſource of water out of Hertfordſhire in an artificial channel to London. Various difficulties ariſing to check the ſpirit of adventure in others, he at length, in the year 1608, commenced the undertaking at his own expence; and after exhauſting all his reſources, and being refuſed aid from the corporation of London, he was enabled, by the aſſiſtance of King James, to bring it to completion. On September 29, 1613, the water was let into the New River-head at Iſlington; but the projector was ruined by his ſucceſs, and it was long before the ſcheme was rendered uſeful to the public, and beneficial to the proprietors.

The ſource of the New River is at Amwell, cloſe by Ware, in Hertfordſhire, about twenty miles from London, on the Hertford road. A number of ſprings are here collected in a large, open baſon of conſiderable depth. At its ſide is placed a large ſtone with the following inſcription: On the north ſide, "Opened "in 1608;" on the ſouth, "Conveyed 40 miles;" on the eaſt, "Chadwell "ſpring;" on the weſt, "Repaired 1728."—The original ſupply of water having been found inadequate to the conſumption, the mill ſtream of the river Lea, which runs near it, was reſorted to; and after various diſputes and litigations between its proprietors and thoſe of the New River; the mill has, at length, become the property of the latter company, who have now an unreſtricted uſe of the

the water; ſo that the Lea may be reckoned one of its ſources. On a ſluice leading from it are flood-gates, with a building adjoining, in which a man is placed, whoſe conſtant employ is to raiſe or lower them according to the fullneſs of the river below; and that he may not err in the quantity ſupplied, a gauge is fixed acroſs the ſluice, conſiſting of a ſtone of great bulk and weight, palliſaded round, and from the road appearing like a tomb, under which all the water paſſes; ſo that by this ſimple contrivance it is perfectly eaſy to regulate the current with the greateſt exactneſs. In order to preſerve a level, the New River takes ſuch a winding courſe, that the length of its channel is very near thirty-nine miles. Its general direction is parallel to the Lea, at the diſtance of a mile or two from it, on higher ground. It paſſes Hoddeſdon and Cheſhunt, and enters Middleſex near Waltham-croſs. Making a great bend towards Enfield-chace, it returns to the town of Enfield; and at Buſh-hill, ſouth of that place, it was formerly carried acroſs a valley in a wooden aqueduct, or open trough, 660 feet in length, ſupported by arches; but the modern improvements in canal-making have ſuggeſted a better mode of effecting the ſame purpoſe by means of a raiſed mound of earth, over which the river paſſes in a new channel, which was completed in the year 1785. From this place the river proceeds, with two very devious bends and returns, to Hornſey; between which village and Highbury it was formerly conveyed acroſs a valley in another wooden aqueduct, 178 yards in length; now, like the other, exchanged for a raiſed bank of clay. Still winding among the gentle elevations of this pleaſant tract, it comes to the upper end of Stoke Newington, and thence paſſes onward beneath Highbury to the eaſt ſide of Iſlington, where it dips under the road in a ſubterranean channel of 200 yards. Juſt before this part is a brick building, whence are ſent ſeveral mains for the ſupply of the eaſtern ſide of London; and a little above is a very ancient ſpring, eight feet in depth, arched over, and running into the river. This is much uſed by the inhabitants of Iſlington. After paſſing the road, the New River riſes again, and coaſts the ſouthern ſide of that town till it reaches its termination at New River-head, near Sadler's-wells. The width of the river under the bridges in the neighbourhood of Iſlington is fourteen feet and a half; and the average depth is four feet ſix inches; but the depth decreaſes on aſcending towards the ſource. The number of bridges which croſs the river in its whole courſe is about 200; and in various places there are ſluices to let off the waſte water, and other works, which might excite admiration in the earlier ſtage of this branch of mechanics, though now they appear

inconſiderable in compariſon with the wonders of canal navigation. The moſt truly admirable are the contrivances for the diſtribution of the water through the ſeveral parts of London. From a circular baſon, now thrice its original ſize, which firſt receives it, the water is conveyed by ſluices into ſeveral large brick ciſterns; whence it paſſes through large wooden pipes of ſix or ſeven inches diameter called mains and riders, to the various diſtricts of the capital, into the houſes of which it is carried by means of leaden pipes. At the New River-head is a building containing two ſteam engines and one water engine, for the purpoſe of forcing up a part of the water to a higher reſervoir near Pentonville, in order for its more eaſy diſtribution into the weſtern parts of the town, which are too nearly on the level of the baſon at the head. Near this reſervoir, in a field, a conſpicuous object appears, the uſe of which is little known. It is an iron pipe, twelve feet in height, (including a wooden tub placed on its top) and four feet eight inches in circumference, erected about four years ago on a great main of pipes of the ſame dimenſions. It acts in the double capacity of an air and a waſte water pipe, and is very uſeful in preventing that burſting of the pipes from the force of water or compreſſed air, which was formerly ſo frequent. Juſt below, in the ſame field, is another reſervoir, ſupplied by one main from the New River-head, and ſerving the pipes in Pentonville and its vicinity. A new one communicating with that at Pentonville is now conſtructing by the ſide of Tottenham-court-road. It is on the ſame level with the other, and is intended particularly for the ſupply of the new buildings in Marybone pariſh and its vicinity. The mains from it are iron pipes of 4 feet 8 inches circumference, and 19 inches bore.

The property of this concern was originally divided into ſeventy-two ſhares, of which thirty-ſix were veſted in Sir Hugh Middleton, who was obliged to part with them to various perſons. Theſe are termed the Adventurers' Shares. The other thirty-ſix were veſted in the crown, a moiety of the undertaking having been made over to King James for the money advanced by him. They were alienated by Charles I., and are called King's Shares; but as the crown never had any concern in the management, its repreſentatives are likewiſe excluded from the direction. Theſe ſhares are alſo ſubject to a grant of 500*l.* per annum, whence they are of leſs value than the others. The original value of the ſeventy-two ſhares was 100*l.* each; but ſo diſcouraging were the firſt proſpects, and ſo much did the expences exceed the income, that they fell to a very ſmall price, and their product

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was long under 5*l.* per annum. At preſent they are near one hundred times their firſt value—a riſe in property ſcarcely to be paralleled, and ſufficiently demonſtrative of the amazing increaſe of building and opulence in the capital! The management of the company's affairs is veſted by charter in twenty-nine holders of adventurers' ſhares, who form a board. The officers are a governor, deputy-governor, treaſurer, and clerk. There is a handſome houſe at the river-head occupied by the ſurveyor to the company. Few public companies in the metropolis ſurpaſs this in the value of property and extent of concerns. The conſtant repairs and improvements going on keep a vaſt number of men and horſes in employ; and the whole ſyſtem of the diſtribution of the water is of ſo complicated a nature as to require the greateſt ſkill and attention on the part of the ſurveyor and other officers. The company has an office and commodious wharf a little above Blackfriars-bridge.

The water of the New River is ſoft, and for the moſt part ſufficiently pure, though liable to become turbid after heavy rains. In ſummer it undergoes a kind of pollution from the multitude of bathers who frequent that part of it which lies between Iſlington and Newington; but this injury, which is more in fancy than in reality, is compenſated as to public benefit by the advantages to health and cleanlineſs, derived from that application of the water. Decency, however, would require that the bathers ſhould with more ſtrictneſs be confined to retired places.

It is to be lamented that the number of perſons drowned in the part of the river near London is very conſiderable. Theſe are for the moſt part ſuicides; as, indeed, the depth of the ſtream is not in general ſuch as to be hazardous to any but children in the way of accident. The Thames, in its whole courſe through the metropolis, is ſaid not to occaſion ſuch a loſs of lives, notwithſtanding the multiplicity of accidents to which the crowd of people continually employed upon it are liable. But perſons falling into the Thames are uſually taken out by the activity of the by-ſtanders, and recovered; whereas the ſequeſtered ſituations in the New River prevent ſuch aid, and invite the attempts of the unfortunate.

The New River is a conſiderable ornament to many of the ſeats and pleaſure grounds which it viſits in its courſe; though it has too much canal-like regularity to be truly pictureſque. It is likewiſe of great utility by affording a ſupply of water for cattle and other purpoſes. It contains a quantity of fiſh of various kinds, though the number of anglers and poachers prevents them in general from arriving at mature ſize.

MIDDLESEX.

Ossulston Hundred.

CHELSEA.

THIS village, immediately contiguous to the weſtern ſide of the metropolis, and bounded on the ſouth by the Thames, affords a variety of curious and intereſting objects. We ſhall firſt give an account of the eſtabliſhment for which it is principally noted, its *College*, or *Royal Hoſpital for maimed and ſuperannuated ſoldiers*.

The original purpoſe of this foundation, and that from which it derived its firſt title, was very different from its preſent deſtination. In the reign of king James I. Dr. Sutcliffe, dean of Exeter, formed the plan of a college of polemical divines, by way of a ſtanding body of defenders of the orthodox faith, againſt the attacks of papiſts and ſectaries. This deſign was well adapted to the theological zeal of the king and the times; and, accordingly, James conſented to appear as its founder, and calling it after his own name, endowed it with lands at Chelſea, beſtowed timber for the building out of the royal foreſts at Windſor, and recommended it to the encouragement of his ſubjects. He alſo procured an act of parliament to enable the college to raiſe a rent from water-works on the river Lea for the ſupply of London. A charter for the inſtitution, granted in 1610, mentions it to conſiſt of a provoſt and twenty fellows, eighteen of whom were to be in orders. Sutcliffe was the firſt provoſt; and he began, at his own expenſe, to erect the college, and at his death bequeathed conſiderable property to the carrying on of the deſign. It however met with a variety of obſtacles, and was ſoon, even in the ſucceeding reign, perverted from its proper uſe. In the enſuing troubleſome times it was ſeized by the parliament, and put to various purpoſes, particularly that of a military priſon.

After the reſtoration, the college and its property having fallen into the hands of the crown, were, in 1669, granted to the newly-incorporated Royal Society, which ſold them in 1682 back to the king; and then immediately commenced the preſent inſtitution. In that year, Charles II. laid the firſt ſtone of a new edifice, of which

Sir Chriſtopher Wren was the architect. It was completed in 1690 at the expenſe of 150,000*l.* partly raiſed by private donations. Sir Stephen Fox, ſuppoſed to have been the author of the project, was a large contributor. Its hiſtory and purpoſe are with elegant brevity recorded in the following inſcription over the piazza on its ſouth front.

IN SUBSIDIUM ET LEVAMEN EMERITORUM, SENIO BELLOQUE FRACTORUM, CONDIDIT CAROLUS SECUNDUS, AUXIT JACOBUS SECUNDUS, PERFECERE GULIELMUS ET MARIA, REX ET REGINA, 1690.

For the maintenance and relief of ſuperannuated and diſabled ſoldiers, founded by Charles II., enlarged by James II., and completed by William and Mary in 1690.

The modeſt and ſimple architecture of this building does not prevent a conſiderable air of grandeur reſulting from its great compaſs, and the regularity of its plan. The material is red brick, varied with freeſtone in the coins, cornices, pediments, and columns. The front extends the vaſt length of 790 feet. In its centre is a pediment of freeſtone, ſupported by maſſy pillars of the Doric order, reaching to the roof. Behind it is an ample veſtibule terminating in a dome or lantern. On the two ſides, the front is occupied by a chapel and a hall; and beyond them are lower buildings, chiefly compoſing apartments for the officers of the hoſpital. On the back part, the principal building forms a quadrangle, open on the ſouth to gardens bounded by the Thames. A ſtatue of Charles II. is placed in the centre. The eaſt and weſt ſides, each 365 feet in length, are the wards for the penſioners. On the centre of each are a ſtone pediment and columns like thoſe of the front. The governor's houſe is at the extremity of the eaſt ſide. It is provided with a very handſome ſtate-room, decorated with ſome regal portraits. Other courts are appropriated to various offices for the ſervice of the inſtitution; as infirmaries, baths, laundries, &c.; and the whole is kept perfectly neat, and in excellent order. A piece of ground to the front, of thirteen acres, encloſed with a wall, is planted with avenues of limes and horſe-cheſnuts, forming broad and commodious walks. The gardens towards the river are extenſive; and every thing ſuitable for the comfort and recreation of the veteran inhabitants, and the dignity of a great national eſtabliſhment, is liberally ſupplied. There are, belonging to the hoſpital, a governor, lieutenant-governor, major, two chaplains, an organiſt, a phyſician, ſurgeon, and apothecary, a ſecretary, ſteward, treaſurer, comptroller, and various ſubordi-

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E. Dayes del.

VIEW of CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

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nate officers. The number of ordinary reſident penſioners will probably appear ſmall in proportion, being only 336. They have an uniform, red lined with blue, and are provided with lodging and diet, beſides eight-pence per week in money. They mount guard, and perform other duties of a garriſon. A body of thirty-four, called light-horſe men, choſen out of the regiments of cavalry, have an allowance of two ſhillings per week. The ſervants, nurſes, &c. make the whole inhabitants of the hoſpital amount to about 550. Of out-penſioners there are, 400 ſerjeants, called the king's letter-men, who have one ſhilling per day each; and an unlimited number of privates, who have five-pence a day, and now amount to upwards of 21,000 men, diſperſed over the three kingdoms. Theſe are liable to be called upon to act as invalids in time of war. For the maintenance of this grand inſtitution an annual ſum is voted by parliament, in addition to 7000*l.* ariſing from the poundage of the houſehold troops. The burial-ground belonging to the hoſpital contains the tombs of ſeveral perſons of note connected with it, and records ſome extraordinary inſtances of longevity in the penſioners.

The annexed view of Chelſea-hoſpital was taken from the ſouth ſide of the Thames. Between the front railing and the building is an extenſive garden, with canals from the river, well ſtocked with fiſh. On the right ſide of the print, between the chimneys, is the Telegraph, forming the firſt communication in the Portſmouth line from the Admiralty to Wimbledon-common.

Adjacent to the Thames, at a ſmall diſtance from the college, is another public inſtitution; the *Botanical, or Phyſic Garden*, belonging to the company of Apothecaries in London. The ground was taken by the company in 1673; and the freehold of the premiſes was afterwards beſtowed upon them by Sir Hans Sloane, on the condition of their annually preſenting ſpecimens of fifty new plants to the Royal Society. This munificent patron of ſcience likewiſe contributed largely to the buildings and improvements of the garden: on which account his ſtatue, by Ryſbrack, is properly made one of its decorations, as a teſtimony of gratitude. A ſpacious green-houſe, with a library over it, occupies a great part of one ſide of the garden. The collection of curious and uſeful plants is a very reſpectable one. Two large cedars of Lebanon, planted in the year 1683, form ſingular and conſpicuous objects on the water-ſide. A botanical demonſtrator is appointed by the company to give inſtructions upon the ſpot to apprentices, relative to the nature and uſes of the plants cultivated there.

Ranclagh, a celebrated place of amuſement, is alſo adjacent to Chelſea College. This was formerly part of the eſtate of Richard earl of Ranelagh, who at the latter end of the laſt, and the beginning of the preſent century, poſſeſſed a fine houſe and gardens on the ſpot. On the ſale of his property in 1730, the greater part of theſe premiſes was converted into a place of public entertainment; and in 1741 the ſingular edifice called the Rotunda was erected. This is a vaſt circular room of 185 feet diameter, furniſhed with an external range of boxes for tea-drinking, which leaves an interior circle of 150 feet diameter, round and round which the company walk. The roof is ſupported by beams meeting in the centre and ſuſtained by a column from the floor, at the bottom of which is a chimney with four faces. The inſide of the rotunda, when completely illuminated and filled with a well-dreſſed company, forms a ſpectacle equally brilliant and uncommon; and notwithſtanding a degree of languor in the nature of the amuſement, it continues to be a faſhionable place of reſort. A concert begins the entertainment of the evening, which is concluded about twelve o'clock; and from that time to three are the favourite hours for the beſt company. Fireworks are occaſionally exhibited in the gardens.

To proceed with the ſubject of places of entertainment—the well-known coffee-houſe called Don Saltero's may be mentioned, named from its proprietor a century ago, one Salter, who furniſhed it with a number of articles of natural hiſtory, antiquities, and curioſities of various kinds, which rendered it famous at that day, and the relics of which ſtill amuſe the company who reſort to it. Its ſituation in Cheyne's Walk, facing the river, and bordered by a fine row of trees, is very pleaſant. Nor ſhall we diſdain to notice the Chelſea bun-houſe, which has been celebrated for the manufacture of that humble luxury for above a century.

A fabric of porcelain at Chelſea once acquired great celebrity, but no longer exiſts. In the ſame premiſes is now a manufactory of ſtained paper, ſtamped after a peculiar manner, which employs about 100 hands. And at Whiteland's houſe in this pariſh, is another manufactory of painted ſilk, linen, leather, cloth, and paper, for the hanging rooms, very beautifully executed, partly by ſtamping, and partly by the hand, in which about an equal number are employed. Meſſrs. Eckhardts, natives of Holland, are the conductors of it. Chelſea alſo poſſeſſes manufactures of artificial ſtone, of fire-proof earthen ſtoves, and of filtering ſtones. Its water-works have already been mentioned in the account of the Thames.

The pariſh church is an irregular ſtructure, moſtly of brick, built at different periods. It contains various monuments of perſons of rank and eminence. One of the chapels was erected by the truly illuſtrious Sir Thomas More, who had a houſe at Chelſea, where he reſided many years. Among the more remarkable monuments are, one of Jane, dutcheſs of Northumberland, wife to John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, beheaded in queen Mary's reign; of Sir Robert Stanley, ſecond ſon of William, earl of Derby; of lord and lady Dacre; of the family of Lawrence; and of lady Jane Cheyne, the work of Bernini. In the church-yard is a ſtriking monument of Sir Hans Sloane, Bart. M. D. the celebrated founder of the Britiſh Muſeum, who died poſſeſſed of the manor of Chelſea, which through him is now inherited by lord Cadogan. The pariſh has alſo a cemetery at ſome diſtance from the church, by the king's road, given by Sir Hans Sloane. It has two chapels of eaſe; Park-chapel near the church, and a new one near Bloody-bridge. The Moravians had a ſeminary, and ſtill have a chapel at Chelſea, at which Sunday ſervice is performed. It has a neat burial-ground.

George Aufrere, Eſq. who inhabits a houſe once in the poſſeſſion of Sir Robert Walpole, has a very fine collection of pictures, chiefly by Italian maſters; and in his garden is a famous ſtatue of Neptune, by Bernini, lately belonging to Sir Joſhua Reynolds. Lord Cremorne's villa alſo contains many good pictures, both Italian and Flemiſh; and a beautiful window of ſtained glaſs conſiſting of many ſmall pieces, by Jarvis.

Near the entrance of the cut which ſupplied the Chelſea water-works, on the river ſide, was lately erected, at a great expenſe, a vaſt pile of buildings for a diſtillery; but from various misfortunes, and too extenſive a plan for any moderate capital, it has remained hitherto unfiniſhed and unoccupied.

The increaſe of buildings in this pariſh of late years has been prodigious, ſo that there is now ſcarcely any interval between the village of Chelſea and Weſtminſter. Belgrave-place, a new row of buildings, forms its connexion with Pimlico and Lower Groſvenor-place. A very long and handſome ſtreet called Sloane-ſtreet, terminating in a ſquare, has alſo been opened from Chelſea to Knightſbridge, a conſiderable part of which hamlet is in this pariſh. Another ſquare, called Hans-place, and ſome intermediate ſtreets, are connected with Sloane-ſtreet, all together compoſing a diſtrict named Hans-town. The preſent number of inhabited houſes in the pariſh is between 1200 and 1300. A great part of the land in Chelſea

pariſh

pariſh is occupied by market gardeners, and ſome corn is grown in it alternately with other crops.

KENSINGTON.

THIS village, ſituated on the great weſtern road, about a mile and a half from Hyde-park Corner, is principally known as the ſeat of a *royal palace.* This edifice, formerly the houſe of Sir Heneage Finch, afterwards earl of Nottingham and lord chancellor, was ſold by his ſon to king William, who, with his conſort, reſided much at it; in which he was followed by the ſucceeding ſovereigns to the end of the laſt reign. William and his queen, Anne, her conſort George prince of Denmark, and George II. all ended their lives in this palace. The preſent royal family have entirely deſerted it, and moſt of the apartments are now occupied by private perſons, to whom permiſſion has been granted for that purpoſe. There is nothing very ſtriking either in the ſituation, or the building. The latter is a large irregular pile of bricks, raiſed at different times. A ſuite of twelve rooms conſtitutes the ſtate apartments. The great ſtaircaſe and ceilings were painted by Kent. A good collection of pictures by old maſters is found here, and particularly many valuable portraits of perſons recorded in Engliſh hiſtory. The gardens have been ſucceſſively enlarged, but principally by queen Caroline, who took for that purpoſe 300 acres out of the adjacent Hyde-park; and their circumference is now three miles and a half. They are ſhaded by a great number of fine trees. The broad walk, extending along the ſouth ſide from the palace, is a very faſhionable promenade in the ſpring, eſpecially on Sundays. Tickell has made Kenſington-gardens the ſcene of an elegant poetical tale, the beginning of which agreeably deſcribes the ſituation of the palace, and the diſplay afforded by a public walk:

Where Kenſington, high o'er the neighbouring lands,
'Midſt greens and ſweets, a regal fabric! ſtands,
And ſees each ſpring luxuriant in her bow'rs,
A ſnow of bloſſoms, and a wild of flow'rs,
The dames of Britain oft in crowds repair
To gravel walks and unpolluted air:
Here, while the town in damps and darkneſs lies,
They breathe in ſunſhine, and ſee azure ſkies;
Each walk with robes of various dies beſpread
Seems from afar a moving tulip-bed,
Where rich brocades and gloſſy damaſks glow,
And chints, the rival of the ſhow'ry bow.

The



Dayes del.c

Hall sculp.o

VIEW of HYDE PARK CORNER.

Pub.d August 1.st 1810 by John Stockdale Piccadilly

The front of the palace is decorated by a fine piece of water, well ſtocked with fiſh. At the bottom of the gardens is another, diſtinguiſhed by the name of the Serpentine River. This it derives from its feeder, which is however no more than a ſerpentine ditch, which riſing at Weſt End near Hampſtead, croſſes the Edgware road at Kilbourn, and continues its winding courſe through rich meadows to Bayſwater, and thence, under the Uxbridge road, to Kenſington-gardens. The nature of the ſoil through which it runs gives it a muddy appearance; and as its water is only the draining of the meadows, it affords no ſupply in the ſummer months.

A manſion in Kenſington pariſh which forms a conſpicuous object to the traveller, is *Holland-houſe*, ſo named from Henry Rich, earl of Holland, by whoſe father-in-law, Sir Walter Cope, it was erected in the year 1607. Its ample front, diſtinguiſhed by the complex and fantaſtic architecture of that period, ſtrikes the modern ſpectator with its pictureſque ſingularity. The inſide has ſome fine decorations in the ſame ſtyle, ſtill preſerved in their original ſtate. This houſe was a ſcene of various politics during the civil war, under its wavering owner, the earl of Holland, who at length forfeited his life in a ſpirited attempt to reſtore that royalty which, by part of his public conduct, he had contributed to aboliſh. A much more dignified character afterwards poſſeſſed this manſion—Mr. Addiſon, who married its heireſs, the counteſs dowager of Warwick and Holland. Here that excellent man died in 1719. Holland-houſe latterly came into the poſſeſſion of the Fox family, whoſe title is derived from it. It is now owned and inhabited by the preſent lord Holland. A gallery of great length occupying the weſt wing is furniſhed with portraits of the Lenox, Digby, and Fox families.

Campden-houſe, ſituated near the former, is a manſion of nearly the ſame date, and built in a ſimilar ſtyle, though of inferior ſize and grandeur. It was erected by Sir Baptiſt Hickes, created viſcount Campden in 1628, and from him came into the Noel family. It was for ſome time the reſidence of queen Anne, then princeſs of Denmark, with her ſon, the young duke of Glouceſter. Nicholas Lechmere, a celebrated lawyer, ennobled in 1721, lived in it, and tranſmitted it to the Lechmeres of Worceſterſhire. It is now the property of Stephen Pitt, Eſq. a minor; but is occupied as a boarding-ſchool for young ladies. Its garden is diſtinguiſhed by a caper-tree, which has borne the winters of this climate near a century.

The pariſh church of Kenſington is a brick ſtructure, erected and repaired at various

various periods, with a more ancient tower ſteeple. It contains monuments and memorials of the Warwick and Holland family, and of various other perſons of different ranks. One of the vicars of Kenſington, whoſe tomb is in the church-yard, was that eminent literary character and liberal divine, Dr. John Jortin. There is a private chapel in the hamlet of Brompton in this pariſh; and a meeting-houſe for diſſenters of the preſbyterian claſs. The population of the pariſh has rapidly increaſed within the preſent century, eſpecially of late years, during which a great acceſſion of buildings has taken place, particularly in Brompton. Others almoſt join the village of Kenſington with Hammerſmith. There are now about 1200 inhabited houſes in the pariſh.

Kenſington Gravel-pits, on the north ſide of the pariſh, has been a noted reſort of invalids, eſpecially thoſe labouring under conſumptive complaints, on account of the ſuppoſed purity of its air. The pariſh is variouſly cultivated in paſture, meadow, and arable. A conſiderable portion of it is occupied by market-gardens and nurſery-grounds.

PADDINGTON.

THIS is one of the villages in the vicinity of the metropolis, now almoſt annexed to it by contiguity of buildings. It is ſituated on the Edgware road, leſs than a mile north of Tybourn-turnpike. New buildings, preceded by new garden-grounds, are faſt extending along the Kilbourn road. The pariſh, moſtly conſiſting of meadow and paſture land, extends near two miles from Tybourn to Kilbourn turnpikes.

The objects of curioſity in Paddington are few. Some of its principal buildings ſurround a green, which has a pleaſant rural air. Here is a handſome brick edifice called *Paddington-houſe*, erected by Mr. Dennis Chirac, jeweller to queen Anne. A capital manſion called *Weſtbourne-place*, built and owned by the architect Iſaac Ware, is within this pariſh, in a remarkably pleaſant and retired ſituation. It is now the property of Jukes Coulſon, Eſq. *Bayſwater* tea-gardens, a place of entertainment much frequented, were formerly occupied by the noted Sir John Hill, who cultivated and prepared his innocent vegetable medicines in this place. At Bayſwater is an ancient conduit (forming the ſubject of a plate for this work). It is ſituated a little diſtance north of the Uxbridge road, nearly hidden from view by houſes



Dayes del.

Sparrow sculp

VIEW of the CONDUIT at BAYS-WATER.

at No 1 Pall Mall Piccadilly

houſes and trees. It is built of ſtone, and roofed with the ſame material, and has a door of plated iron. An inſcription above the door mentions that it was repaired in 1635. It is rendered a pleaſing object, from the antiquity of its appearance, and from a conſtant ſtream of cryſtal water proceeding from it, as repreſented in the print. This is the overplus water; which, with two other ſprings near it, forms nearly the whole of the ſupply of the Serpentine River in Kenſington-gardens in dry ſeaſons. Except theſe ſprings, ſcarcely any water is met with but at very great depths for ſeveral miles to the northward. The conduit at Bayſwater is now the property of the Chelſea water-work company. Its water, which is copious, is conveyed through the fields and along Oxford-ſtreet in pipes. It ſupplies the houſes in and about Bond-ſtreet. At Weſtbourn-houſe, though within a ſhort diſtance of the conduit, a well was lately ſunk two hundred and eighty feet deep before the workmen came to a ſpring. Before we quit this place, we cannot help noticing another attempt to gain water by ſinking a well, at Norland-houſe, the ſeat of Luke Vulliamy, Eſq. one mile from Bayſwater, at the two mile-ſtone on the Uxbridge road. It was begun and carried on at a very conſiderable expenſe, and for a long time produced nothing but diſappointment, in conſequence of treacherous quickſands, &c. The owner was nearly tired out; but ſtill perſevering with hopes, as the premiſes and ground wanted nothing but water to make a moſt deſirable retreat, at laſt, to his great joy, the digger, at two hundred and ſixty feet depth, ſtruck his pick-axe into a ſtrong ſpring, which guſhed out with ſuch force, that it was with difficulty he was got out before the well was filled, leaving his tools behind him. It throws up about forty-eight gallons in one minute, flowing ſome feet above the ſurface. The water is remarkably ſoft, as clear as cryſtal, and now ſupplies two fiſh-ponds, one of which is ſtocked with trout, which thrive remarkably well. It is ſaid to be ſofter than rain-water, and for that reaſon is fetched from London by the upholſterers to waſh their feathers in. A lying-in hoſpital called the queen's, her majeſty being patroneſs, is ſituated at Bayſwater. In the time of the great plague there were peſt-houſes at this place, and ſome on the ſpot ſtill bear that name.

The church at Paddington is a new and handſome edifice, of Grecian architecture, with a Doric portico, and a cupola. The pariſh being chiefly church land, it has partaken little of the modern increaſe of building, till lately, that about 100 ſmall cottages for the uſe of workmen and artificers have been erected. The whole preſent number of houſes is about 350.

A ſurvey for a canal from Paddington round the northern ſide of London to Moorfields, and from thence to the river Lea, was made in 1773, by Robert Whitworth, Eſq. by order of the city of London, in which James Sharp, Eſq. took an active part; but the ſcheme was not brought to execution. Another ſurvey has been taken by the Grand Junction Canal Company, and a bill for carrying the ſame into force is now before parliament, and it is to be hoped will meet with that ſucceſs which ſo uſeful an undertaking deſerves.

PANCRAS.

ABOUT a mile to the north of London ſtands the church of St. Pancras, belonging to a pariſh of great extent, which, comprehending part of what is now included in the metropolis itſelf, as Tottenham-court-road, and ſeveral ſtreets to the weſt of it, extends as far as Highgate northwards, and Battle-bridge eaſtwards. The ground not occupied by buildings, brick-kilns, &c. is almoſt entirely devoted to meadow and paſturage. The church is a mean ancient ſtructure, very diſproportionate in ſize to its parochial juriſdiction. It is of particular note for the predilection thoſe of the Roman catholic perſuaſion have long had for interment within it and its church-yard. From a copious liſt of its monuments we ſelect the names of Cooper, the famous miniature-painter in the laſt century, Leoni the architect, Van Bleck the portrait-painter, Woolett the engraver, count Haſlang the Bavarian miniſter, Paxton the muſician, and baron de Wenzel the oculiſt. A ſpacious new cemetery has lately been added to the old crowded one.

Near the church itſelf is no conſiderable collection of houſes, and what there are have moſtly been erected within a very few years. The public houſe known by the name of the Adam and Eve, with its tea-gardens, is indeed of old ſtanding. On the London ſide of the pariſh, the moſt remarkable objects are, the hoſpital for the ſmall-pox, both natural and by inoculation, the Foundling Hoſpital, and the Welch Charity School; inſtitutions of which a more particular account is elſewhere given*; Bagnigge Wells, a noted place of public entertainment, poſſeſſing two medicinal ſprings, one chalybeat, and the other cathartic; and St. Chad's well, the water of which is diuretic and aperient. *Somers-town* is a hamlet of Pancras ſituated to the ſouth-weſt of the church, and conſiſting of ſeveral ſtreets

* In the preceding volume of the Hiſtory of London.

newly

newly erected, with a chapel of eaſe called Bethel chapel. *Camden-town* is another ſtill newer hamlet, forming a ſtreet along the Hampſtead road, from which ſeveral others are to branch out when the plan is completed. In this town an eſtabliſhment has been formed of a kind abſolutely new in this country, though not unfrequent on the continent. It is a *Veterinary College*, or place for the treatment of lamed and diſeaſed horſes, with an inſtitution for regular and ſcientific inſtruction in the art of farriery. Large buildings have been erected for its ſeveral purpoſes; and a profeſſor reſident on the ſpot gives lectures to pupils, who are encouraged by a certainty of employment in the cavalry. This inſtitution was founded by private ſubſcription; but its pecuniary embarraſſments have been relieved by parliamentary aid.

The hamlet of *Kentiſh-town*, lying to the north of Pancras church, conſiſts of a long ſtreet aſcending to the high ground near Highgate, and chiefly compoſed of boxes and lodging-houſes for the accommodation of the inhabitants of London, with boarding-ſchools, public houſes, &c. The higher parts of it enjoy an extenſive proſpect. New rows of houſes have almoſt connected it with the bottom of Highgate-hill. There is a neat chapel of ancient foundation, lately rebuilt.

Further on, within the limits of this pariſh, is *Cane* or *Ken-wood*, the very pleaſant ſeat of lord Mansfield, which by its ſtately woods and extenſive grounds gives an idea of a nobleman's domain beyond what one would expect ſo near the capital. It ſpreads over a large ſpace of the ground between the hills of Hampſtead and Highgate, and forms a beautiful feature in the landſcape they compoſe. It derived celebrity from its owner, the great earl of Mansfield, who purchaſed it in 1755 of lord Bute, and made it his principal ſummer reſidence. He added to the houſe its greateſt ornament, a fine library room deſigned by Adam, and painted by Zucchi. Several buſts and portraits of eminent men ſuitably decorate this ſeat. His ſucceſſor, the late earl of Mansfield, made large improvements in the houſe, and took in a conſiderable extent of land to the pleaſure-grounds, beſides turning the road, which formerly ran cloſe to the houſe, to ſome diſtance from it. We cannot help mentioning, before we quit this ſeat, that if the accommodation of the public had been originally attended to, rather than private convenience, the great north road ought to have turned off to the left from the bottom of Highgate-hill, and paſſed through Cane-wood between the Hampſtead and Highgate hills; by which means, on cutting through a narrow hill, a level might nearly have been

obtained with the northern diſtrict, and the great inconvenience of the aſcent and deſcent of Highgate-hill have been avoided.

Scarcely any pariſh in or about London has had ſo great an increaſe of buildings and population within a few years as that of Pancras. Beſides the two entirely new towns that have been mentioned, great building-ſchemes have been executed about Battle-bridge, the Foundling-hoſpital, and eſpecially in and near Tottenham-court-road; ſo that the preſent number of houſes is thought to be under-rated at 4000. The increaſe in the value of the living is proportionable to that of its population. We have been well informed, that whereas the late rector did not make more than 600*l. per annum* of it, the preſent incumbent, the Rev. Mr. Champneys, values it at the ſum of 2500*l.*, which is ſtill yearly augmenting. The living is in the patronage of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's.

ISLINGTON.

THIS village, which by its extent exhibits the appearance of a conſiderable town, lies due north of St. Paul's cathedral, at the diſtance of about a mile from the proper limits of the city, though almoſt joined to it by contiguity of new buildings. Iſlington is a place of great antiquity, and has for centuries been a ſort of rural appendage to London, to the inhabitants of which it has afforded the advantages of good air and country lodgings, and a nurſery for young children. There are ſeveral houſes of ancient date in the town, but none that afford much matter for curioſity, except a lofty brick tower, the remains of *Canonbury-houſe*, originally a country reſidence of the priors of St. Bartholomew in London, and ſucceſſively inhabited by ſeveral perſons of diſtinction. The tower is now let out in ſeparate apartments to lodgers, and has been occupied by ſome perſons of note in the literary world, among whom where Ephraim Chambers, and Dr. Goldſmith. A capital manſion once exiſting at *Highbury-place* has long exhibited no relics but its moat. On its ſite is the villa of Alexander Aubert, Eſq. diſtinguiſhed by its obſervatory, furniſhed with an excellent aſtronomical apparatus.

The pariſh church is a modern brick edifice, ornamented with ſtone, and furniſhed with a ſpire ſteeple, a conſpicuous object from the neighbourhood. The living is a vicarage, under private patronage. Dr. Cave, the celebrated eccleſiaſtical hiſtorian,

hiſtorian, was vicar here in the laſt century. The methodiſts have a chapel in Iſlington; and there is a meeting for the independents.

At Iſlington the New River finiſhes its winding courſe. Of this excellent ſupply of the metropolis with water we have given a very particular account in the preceding pages.

Near Iſlington is a chalybeat ſpring of ſome note, reſembling that of Tunbridge, and known by the name of *Iſlington Spa*, or *New Tunbridge Wells*. One Sadler, who either diſcovered or new-opened the ſpring, ſet up near it a muſic-houſe, ſince converted into the well-known place of amuſement called *Sadler's Wells*, diſtinguiſhed by its performances of dancing, tumbling, and pantomime. *White-conduit Houſe*, near Iſlington, is much frequented as a tea-drinking place. It takes its name from an ancient ſtone conduit near it, now diſuſed.

Great acceſſions of building have of late years been made to Iſlington; particularly at the northern end, where the handſome and pleaſant rows of building called *Highbury-place* and *Terrace* have been erected; and towards the weſt, where a whole new town has been built, under the name of *Pentonville*, from Mr. *Penton*, the gentleman to whom the land belonged. It has a neat chapel, which ſtands (as does moſt of the hamlet) in the pariſh of St. James, Clerkenwell. The end towards Newington-green has likewiſe been augmented by ſeveral ſtreets and rows of houſes. The preſent number of houſes in Iſlington pariſh is about 1200. The burials of this place very much exceed the baptiſms, on account of the number of nurſed children who die here. Many invalids alſo reſort to it for the air; though its increaſed ſize and contiguity to the town have much impaired the advantage its elevation would otherwiſe give it in this reſpect. Highbury, however, yet enjoys an uncontaminated atmoſphere.

The land about Iſlington is almoſt entirely paſture and meadow, and chiefly in the occupation of cow-keepers for the ſupply of the metropolis. The number of cows kept runs from 1200 to 1500. Many bricks are made in the part adjoining to Hackney pariſh; where is alſo a conſiderable manufacture of white lead.

HACKNEY.

THIS pariſh, ſituated at a ſmall diſtance to the north-eaſt of London, contains, beſides the town of the ſame name, the contiguous hamlets of Upper and Lower

Lower Clapton, and Homerton, with various appurtenances, all together compoſing one of the largeſt and moſt opulent villages in England. Notwithſtanding its ſituation on a tract of ground almoſt level, the goodneſs of its ſoil, and the artificial beauties of plantation and culture with which it is decorated, together with its convenient diſtance, have long rendered it a favourite reſidence for perſons engaged in the commerce of the metropolis, who wiſh to withdraw from its noiſe and ſmoke. It is conſequently furniſhed with many excellent houſes, poſſeſſed of every deſirable convenience and ornament, though none of them afford much matter to excite the curioſity of a ſtranger. The chief diverſities of ground are the low and marſhy parts on the banks of the Lea, and the elevated ſites of Upper Clapton and Stamford-hill, which laſt enjoy extenſive proſpects into Eſſex and Middleſex.

The pariſh church of Hackney, an irregular pile erected at different periods, having been found too ſmall for the increaſing number of pariſhioners, has lately been exchanged for a large new brick edifice built in a neighbouring field, which, after much delay and unexpected coſt, is at length fitted for the reception of a congregation. The old church and church-yard are well filled with monuments; of which the more remarkable are, thoſe of Chriſtopher Urſwick, an eminent ſtateſman under Henry VII. and rector of this pariſh; Thomas Wood, Eſq. and ſons; the Rowe family; the Blackall family; and J. Sotheby, Eſq. A tomb formerly exiſted here of Henry, earl of Northumberland, who died at his manor of Hackney in the reign of Henry VIII. The living of Hackney is a vicarage, preſented by a lay rector.

Other places of worſhip in the pariſh are, a chapel at Homerton, now uſed as a methodiſt meeting; another at Upper Clapton; a meeting-houſe of diſſenters of the preſbyterian denomination, called the Gravel-pit; one of independents in St. Thomas's-ſquare, and another in Homerton. The Jews have a burial-ground in Grove-ſtreet. Many men of conſiderable eminence in literature have officiated at theſe places. Archbiſhop Sheldon was ſome time vicar here. Mr. Peter Newcome, vicar in the beginning of this century, the author of a courſe of ſermons, founded a boarding-ſchool, which has continued in reputation to the preſent time under the ſame family. Dr. John Worthington, an eminent divine, and John Strype the antiquary, were lecturers of Hackney. The preſbyterians reckon Nye and Byfield, Bates and Henry, among their ancient paſtors; and the diſtinguiſhed names of Price and Prieſtley appear among the late ones. Among the remarkable

perſons

perſons who were born at Hackney, or made it their reſidence, may be mentioned Sir Ralph Sadleir, a ſtateſman of eminence in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth; John Ward, the rich uſurer, rendered notorious by Pope; Dr. Mandeville, author of the Fable of the Bees: and the truly philanthropical John Howard.

The population of Hackney has kept pace in its increaſe with that of moſt of the villages in the vicinity of London. The preſent number of houſes in the whole pariſh is eſtimated at about 1600. There are a few manufactures for the employ of the inhabitants; as lead-works at the Temple mills, ſome ſilk mills at the Wick, ſome calendering, colour-making, and calico-printing, Of the farms in the pariſh, about two-thirds are in graſs, and chiefly occupied by cow-keepers. There are ſome market-gardeners, and two conſiderable nurſery-men; and large quantities of bricks are made, particularly about Kingſland.

STRATFORD-BOW.

THIS village, commonly called Bow, lying to the eaſt of London, terminates the county of Middleſex on that ſide, being ſeparated only by the ſtream of the river Lea from Eſſex. It is ſuppoſed to take its name of *Bow* from a bridge of one arch built over the river by queen Matilda. The place is of ſmall extent, and has not partaken of the late increaſe of building round the metropolis. Many of its houſes have a conſiderable air of antiquity. At Old-Ford, a hamlet in the pariſh where was the ancient ford over the river, are ſome ſmall remains of a manſion, commonly, though probably erroneouſly, called king John's palace. Its ſite now belongs to Chriſt's-hoſpital.

The pariſh church of Bow, an ancient edifice of flint and ſtones, with a tower ſteeple, was originally a chapel of eaſe to Stepney. It became parochial in 1719. The principal manufacture of the village is calico-printing, now chiefly carried on at the grounds of Macmurdo and Co. at Old-Ford, where a conſiderable number of people are kept in conſtant employ. There is at the ſame place a chemical work for the making of ſal ammoniac. Scarlet-dying for the Eaſt India company was once largely practiſed in this village, but the buſineſs has now left it.

The land belonging to the pariſh is nearly an equal mixture of arable and graſs. Some of it is occupied by nurſery-grounds and gardens. The number of houſes is about 330.

STEPNEY.

THE pariſh of *Stepney*, or *Stebunhethe*, contiguous to, and now forming part of, the eaſtern ſide of the metropolis, is ſituated in the precinct of the Tower-hamlets, and occupies moſt of the ſpace between the Mile-end road and the Thames, from Whitechapel to Bow, extending alſo in ſome places to a conſiderable diſtance beyond the Mile-end road. It was formerly much more extenſive; but ſeveral of its hamlets, covered by buildings and annexed to the metropolis, have been made ſeparate pariſhes. Stepney now contains four hamlets; Ratcliffe, Mile-end old town, Mile-end new town, and Poplar and Blackwall conjunctly. The manor of Stepney, anciently part of the epiſcopal demeſne of London, was alienated in the reign of Edward VI. and has been tranſmitted through various hands to the Colebrooke family, in whom the reverſion now reſides after the death of Sir G. Colebrooke. The preſent poſſeſſor is Jonathan Eade, Eſq. The ancient manor-houſe of Stepney is ſuppoſed to have been ſituated at a place called Biſhops'-hall, now in the pariſh of Bethnal-green. There were ſeveral inferior manors, and old manſions, of which ſome remains ſtill exiſt. The moſt remarkable relic is a gateway of very fine brick-work, and inhabited, formerly belonging to Worceſter-houſe, a large manſion of the firſt marquis of Worceſter. It is ſituated oppoſite the rectory, and was the birth-place of that very eminent phyſician Dr. Richard Mead, whoſe father, the Rev. Matthew Mead, was a diſſenting miniſter here. A wooden edifice, now the Spring-garden coffee-houſe, was the reſidence of Sir Henry Colet, father of the celebrated Dr. Colet, once vicar of Stepney, and afterwards dean of St. Paul's, and founder of St. Paul's ſchool.

The pariſh church of Stepney is a large irregular Gothic building with a ſquare tower. On the outſide are ſome rude carvings; and both the church and church-yard are well furniſhed with tombs, few of them, however, entitled to particular notice. One of the moſt conſpicuous in the church is that of Sir Henry Colet. Many are of ſea-faring people. That diſtinguiſhed naval character, admiral Sir John Leake, is buried in the church-yard, and has a long hiſtorical inſcription to his memory. The living is a rectory, under the patronage of Brazen-noſe college, Oxford. A large congregation of proteſtant diſſenters has long ſubſiſted in this pariſh; and there are now various other places of worſhip belonging to the ſeparatiſts. It appears that Stepney was a great ſufferer in the plague of 1665. The number

number of perſons who died of it during that year in the pariſh (then more extenſive) was 6583; of theſe, 154 perſons were buried on the ſingle 11th of September.

The hamlet of *Poplar and Blackwall*, containing about 600 houſes, moſt of them old, has a chapel of eaſe of its own, a neat brick ſtructure, almoſt entirely rebuilt by the Eaſt India company in 1776. It contains many monuments, chiefly of perſons connected with the company; among the reſt one of Dr. Gloſter Ridley, a poet, hiſtorian, and divine of diſtinction, who was long chaplain of Poplar, where he reſided. Adjoining the chapel are alms-houſes belonging to the Eaſt India company, conſiſting of twenty-two tenements, for the widows of inferior officers and ſeamen, who are ſupported by quarterly penſions. Within this hamlet is Stepney marſh, or the Iſle of Dogs, a peninſula conſiſting of 836 acres, lying within the bend of the Thames between Blackwall and Ratcliffe. It is embanked from the river, and forms an excellent paſture for the fattening of ſheep and cattle. Blackwall, at the eaſtern extremity of the hamlet, where it runs out to the boundaries of the county, has long been of note for its ſhip-yard and docks, which under the preſent owner, John Perry, Eſq. have been rendered the moſt extenſive and well-contrived in the kingdom, belonging to an individual. He has made a ſpacious baſon, capable of receiving twenty-eight Eaſt Indiamen and fifty or ſixty ſmaller ſhips, furniſhed with the moſt commodious wharfs, cranes, and other conveniences, a boiling-houſe and warehouſes for the Greenland fiſhery, and a vaſt piece of mechaniſm for maſting and diſmaſting Eaſt India ſhips, greatly preferable to the ſheer-hulks uſually employed. His buildings for naval ſtores, timber-yards, roperies, &c. are all on a proportionate ſcale; and the whole number of hands employed by him is on the average about 300. Off Blackwall ſome of the homeward Eaſt Indiamen are uſually lying, for the uſe of which is a line of public houſes, &c. along the river.

The hamlet of *Ratcliffe* is in the weſtern diviſion of the pariſh, and conſiſts of a number of ſtreets chiefly occupied by perſons concerned in the trade on the river. One of the greateſt fires that has been known in London within this century happened here on 23d of July 1794, which deſtroyed 455 houſes, and thirty-ſix warehouſes. There are ſeveral alms-houſes, ſchools, and places of worſhip in this hamlet. It contains a dock, an Eaſt India warehouſe for ſaltpetre, two large roperies, and a noted manufacture of window glaſs.

Mile-end Old Town occupies the greater part of the northern ſide of the pariſh. It

contains two burying-grounds of the Portugueſe Jews, and one of the German or Dutch Jews, which are conſiderable objects of curioſity. There is alſo a very neat hoſpital and an alms-houſe for the Portugueſe Jews. In this hamlet are a hartſhorn manufacture, another for ſpunges for ſhips, two roperies, and three large breweries. On the north ſide of the Mile-end road are four charitable eſtabliſhments belonging to public bodies: the alms-houſes of the corporation of the Trinity; Bancroft's hoſpital, a large and handſome edifice containing alms-houſes and a charity-ſchool, founded in 1727 by Francis Bancroft, citizen of London and draper; the ſkinners', and vintners' alms-houſes.

The hamlet of *Mile-end New Town* ſtands detached from the reſt of the pariſh on the northern ſide.

The whole pariſh of Stepney contains about 1530 acres, excluſive of the ſite of buildings, of which by far the greater part are meadow, paſture, and marſh. There is ſome arable and garden ground. The ſoil is chiefly loam and gravel. The number of houſes is about 3100; of inhabitants, 17,000. The population has greatly increaſed within late years, and ſeems ſtill augmenting. The ravages of the fire at Ratcliffe are all repaired, and the calamity, as uſual, has ended in improvement.

NEWINGTON-STOKE.

THIS agreeable village is about the diſtance of three miles north from the eaſtern part of London, upon the great north road through Ware. The ground on which it ſtands is a continuation of the level from London, and does not riſe till the road has juſt paſſed the village and begins to aſcend Stamford-hill, in the pariſh of Hackney. The beſt part of Newington conſiſts of a long ſtreet extending from the high road to the church, beyond which, the New River in its circuitous courſe flowing by the end of the town, fronts a very pleaſant range of houſes called Paradiſe-row. The new houſe and pleaſure-grounds of Jonathan Hoare, Eſq. in this neighbourhood, form the moſt diſtinguiſhed ornament of the village.

The pariſh church is a ſmall irregular ſtructure, built at different times, with a low tower. In it are a number of monuments, among which the moſt remarkable are thoſe of Mr. Dudley, and of the Hartopp and Hurlock family. The living is a rectory in the juriſdiction of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, and under the patronage of the prebendary of Newington. There is a diſſenting meeting-houſe

in

in the village, and another in the neighbouring hamlet of Newington-green. This laſt place is a ſmall ſquare of houſes pleaſantly built round a green, at the diſtance of half a mile.

Newington at different periods has been inhabited by ſeveral perſons of note. Edward, earl of Oxford, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, had a houſe here, of which ſome ſmall remains are ſuppoſed to exiſt in the barn of a cow-keeper. It was probably from a viſit of the queen's either to this nobleman, or to the earl of Leiceſter, who ſeems alſo to have reſided here, that a walk planted with large elms received the name which it now retains of Queen Elizabeth's Walk. Sir John Popham, lord chief juſtice of the queen's bench, reſided at Newington, as did alſo his ſon, Sir Francis, a ſtrenuous oppoſer in parliament of the meaſures of Charles I. Fleetwood, ſon-in-law to Oliver Cromwell, poſſeſſed a houſe here, in which he ſpent his latter days in peace after the Reſtoration. His ſon-in-law was Sir John Hartopp, who occupied the ſame houſe after him, as did his ſucceſſors, the Hartopps and Hurlocks. It is now Mrs. Criſp's boarding-ſchool for young ladies. The preſent manor-houſe, built by Mr. Gunſton, and afterwards the property of Sir Thomas Abney, was for many years the hoſpitable retreat of that amiable and eminent divine Dr. Watts. Other diſtinguiſhed occaſional inhabitants of Newington were the celebrated Daniel Defoe*; Anderſon, the laborious writer on commerce; James Burgh, author of Political Diſquiſitions, and other works; Thomas Day, writer of Sandford and Merton; and the benevolent John Howard. Thomas Cooke, Eſq. a Turkey merchant, known by the liberal pecuniary relief he afforded to Charles XII. of Sweden, as well as by many ſingularities, was alſo long a reſident here.

Newington has partaken leſs of the increaſe of building than moſt of the villages about London, and its annual burials have rather diminiſhed than increaſed for fifteen years paſt. The additional buildings on the eaſt ſide of the high road are in Hackney pariſh. The number of houſes in the pariſh is about 200. The land is almoſt all in graſs, except a few acres occupied by market-gardeners.

* The life of this writer has lately been minutely detailed by George Chalmers, Eſq. who has beſtowed much curious reſearch upon the ſubject.

HORNSEY.

ABOUT five miles to the north of London lies the retired village of Hornſey, in a ſituation perfectly rural, and fertile of natural beauties. The country in this part, riſing into ſmall hills, affords a continual variety of ſurface, and is clothed in almoſt perpetual verdure. The New River winding through it enlivens the ſcenery, though its canal-like uniformity of breadth and banks rather ſuits the creations of art than the landſcapes of nature. A conſiderable quantity of wood, with which ſome of the eminences are covered, impreſſes, however, ſomewhat of a wild character on this tract. The manor of Hornſey is an ancient demeſne of the ſee of London; and its great park is recorded in our hiſtories as the place where ſome of the powerful barons aſſembling in arms in 1386, obliged the miſguided Richard II. to diſmiſs his obnoxious favourites.

Hornſey pariſh, beſides the village of the name, contains the hamlets of Crouch-end, Muſwell-hill, Stroud-green, and the greater part of Highgate. Of this laſt place we ſhall, however, treat ſeparately. The village of *Hornſey* is ſmall. Its church is an old building, with a low ſquare tower, embattled, and of remarkable thickneſs. Of its monuments, one of the moſt remarkable is that of Richard Candiſh, Eſq. a member of parliament in the reign of Elizabeth. There is likewiſe one of Samuel Buckley, the editor of Thuanus. The hamlet of *Crouch-end* is a ſmall collection of houſes in a hollow between Hornſey and Highgate. That of *Muſwell-hill* lies to the north-weſt, and is perched upon a fine eminence, affording a delightful proſpect. A chapel, with a noted image of the Virgin Mary, once ſtood here, and great medicinal virtues were ſuppoſed to belong to a well, whence the place took its name. But though the ſpring remains, its virtues are forgotten. The farm of Muſwell-hill is at preſent the property of lady Bath.

At ſome diſtance from Hornſey, near Newington, is a rough tract of ground covered with dwarf trees and underwood, called *Hornſey-wood*, well known to the inhabitants of London on account of a pleaſant tea-drinking houſe on its edge, much frequented on Sundays and holidays.

The number of houſes in Hornſey pariſh is about 420, of which 264 are in the hamlet of Highgate, and the remainder in the places above deſcribed. The land of the pariſh is for the moſt part in meadow and paſture; but the quantity of waſte

waſte and wood land is not inconſiderable. A new turnpike road paſſing by Newington-green to Southgate, and joining the Barnet road, ſo as to avoid Highgate-hill, runs along this pariſh.

HIGHGATE.

HIGHGATE-HILL, crowned with its houſes and gardens, is one of the moſt conſpicuous objects on the northern ſide of London, and together with its ſiſter-eminence of Hampſtead agreeably varies the line of the horizon. It is the ſteepeſt and boldeſt of the two, and preſents ſomewhat romantic in the dark ſhade of its hanging groves. The great north road by Barnet, running level from Iſlington to the ſtraggling hamlet of Holloway, thence riſes ſuddenly up the hill to Highgate. The ſummit and part of the deſcent are covered by the village, built chiefly on the ſide of the great road, and of the lanes leading to Hampſtead, Kentiſh-town, and Hornſey, towards all which places the ground deſcends. The view every way is extenſive and pleaſing.

Highgate has a chapel of eaſe under the pariſh church of Hornſey. It is a brick edifice, that has undergone ſucceſſive enlargements and repairs. Its moſt remarkable monuments are thoſe of Mr. Platt and his wife, Dr. Atterbury (brother to the biſhop), Sir Edward Gould, and Sir Francis Pemberton. There is an endowed grammar-ſchool near the chapel, the maſter of which is afternoon preacher. Highgate has alſo a preſbyterian meeting-houſe, and a methodiſt chapel.

Some eminent perſons have been reſident at this place. The literary family of Blount had a houſe at Upper Holloway. That learned peer the marquis of Dorcheſter poſſeſſed a manſion at Highgate; as did that eminent lawyer, chief juſtice Pemberton.

Highgate has ſeveral houſes of conſiderable antiquity. It has received little acceſſion of building latterly, and its population does not appear to have increaſed for many years paſt. Adjoining to the village is an elegant villa of the earl of Southampton's, called *Fitzroy-farm*, the grounds of which border upon Cane-wood. The view on this ſide is extremely pleaſing, and is much enlivened by the large ponds belonging to the Hampſtead water-works, the ſource of which is in Cane-wood. A great diſcouragement to building on Highgate-hill is want of

of water, which can only be procured by ſinking wells to an extraordinary depth.

The annexed view of London was taken from a field on the top of the hill adjoining the foot-path, on the right-hand ſide of the quick-hedge. It comprehends Weſtminſter-abbey on the right, and Shooter's-hill in the back-ground to the left.

Here it may not be improper to remark, that ſeveral journies were made to Highgate and the neighbouring eminences with intent to take a view of the metropolis. By experience it was found that the beſt time for viewing London was about three o'clock in the afternoon, of a bright, clear ſummer's day, with little haze, and a northerly wind. At this hour the people of the middle claſs have dreſſed their dinners, and the cooks of the rich have not yet begun to make their fires.

FINCHLEY.

THIS is a ſmall village, ſituated about a mile to the weſt of the great north road, about eight miles from London. The name is chiefly known by being annexed to the neighbouring extenſive *common*, a place formidable to travellers from the highway robberies of which it has been the ſcene. Military encampments to guard the metropolis have alſo been made upon it, of which the laſt was after the riots in 1780.

The village of Finchley, which gives the idea of perfect rural retirement, has a Gothic church, with a low embattled ſteeple, containing ſeveral monuments, but not worth particularizing. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of the biſhop of London. The inhabitants are chiefly farmers. Its population has rather diminiſhed than increaſed within the laſt fifteen or twenty years. The preſent number of houſes is about 250. The land is occupied partly in arable, partly in wood, but moſtly in paſture and meadow. Finchley-common, of which two-thirds is ſituated in this pariſh, is eſtimated to contain 2010 acres, the waſte and uncultivated ſtate of which, ſo near to the metropolis, is diſgraceful to the economy of the country.



E. Dayes del.t

W. Knight sculp.t

VIEW of LONDON,

from Highgate.

London Pub. Nov. 6, 1797 by I. Stockdale, Piccadilly



C. Tayes del.

W. Knight sculp.

VIEW of FRIERN HOUSE

The Seat of John Bacon Esq.r

London Pub. Nov. 1. 1797. by I. Stockdale, Piccadilly

BARNET FRIERN,

OR *Fryars Barnet*, is a ſmall pariſh, ſituated within the liberties of Finſbury and Wenſlackbarn, to the north-eaſt of Finchley-common. It takes its appellation, diſtinguiſhing it from the other Barnets, from having been anciently the property of the friars of St. John of Jeruſalem, in Clerkenwell. The village is ſeated near the road, about nine miles from London. The church is ſmall and ancient, of Norman architecture with a mixture of Gothic. The living is a rectory, under the patronage of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, to whom the manor has belonged ſince the diſſolution of the monaſteries.

The moſt remarkable object in this pariſh is the manor-houſe, called the Friary, or Friern-houſe, in which, notwithſtanding the many alterations and additions it has received, are ſeveral viſible remains of antiquity. Its ſituation is retired and very pleaſant. Its approach is rendered venerable by the remains of a cloiſter with croſſes upon the ſtones. This leads to a confeſſionary, and a part of the old hall. Under the floor of the modern hall, built about 1660, is an excavation, ſuppoſed to be the lavatory or bath of the friars. In the exterior part of the houſe, leading towards the church, is a place called the Monk's-hole, a ſubterraneous paſſage leading to another confeſſionary, or, as ſome ſuppoſe, a place of confinement for the refractory brethren. This houſe was originally the manſe or country-houſe of the friars of St. John, and was the firſt *hoſpitium* for the entertainment of travellers upon the northern road, on which it was ſituated. It has had a variety of occupants as leſſees under the dean and chapter, and is now the reſidence of John Bacon, Eſq. of the Firſt-Fruits office. This gentleman poſſeſſes ſeveral portraits of the illuſtrious name of Bacon; one, ſuppoſed to be the only one extant, of that extraordinary genius, beyond the age he lived in, Roger Bacon; others, of the lord keeper Bacon; his ſon the famous lord chancellor Verulam; and many more of the family to the preſent poſſeſſor. There is likewiſe a buſt of Handel by Roubilliac, from a plaſter maſk taken from his face in his life-time, as the model for his ſtatue in Weſtminſter-abbey; and a painting of Charles Jennens, Eſq. a friend and patron of Handel, who furniſhed the words of the Meſſiah and ſeveral of his oratorios*. The grounds in this neighbourhood are beautifully diverſified, and ſo

* The annexed view of the friary or manor-houſe is taken from the queen's gate, ſo called from its being opened as an entrance for queen Anne, when ſhe honoured Dr. King, then the poſſeſſor, with a viſit.

high

high as to command an extenſive view of Eſſex beyond the river Lea. At Colney-hatch, a hamlet in this pariſh, are ſeveral pleaſant reſidences; as the villa lately the Hon. Mrs. Boſcawen's; that of John Paſley, Eſq.; of Richard Down, Eſq. and others.

The ſoil of this pariſh is moſtly a ſtiff clay; and the proportion of arable to meadow is very ſmall. Conſiderable improvements have lately been made by Mr. Bacon in under-draining and other new practices in agriculture. The preſent number of houſes is ſeventy-eight; that of inhabitants ſeems from the bills of mortality to have been nearly ſtationary for a number of years paſt. There is an alms-houſe in the pariſh for twelve poor perſons, founded in 1612 by Laurence Campe, citizen and draper of London.

HAMPSTEAD.

NONE of the villages round London has obtained ſo much fame for beauty of ſituation as Hampſtead; a praiſe it deſerves not only on account of the command its elevated ſite gives it over a large tract of circumjacent country; but from the very varied ſurface of ground on which it ſtands, affording a number of ſmall landſcapes agreeably compoſed of groves, ſhady lanes, gardens, and buildings, ſingularly contraſted in character and diſpoſition. The neighbouring heath, too, offers a feature of wildneſs and ruſticity, very ſtriking in the vicinity of ſo much culture. Little is wanted to the perfection of rural beauty in the general ſcenery of Hampſtead, but greater abundance of water; the reſervoir-ponds on the eaſt ſide of the town but partially and imperfectly ſupplying this eſſential requiſite to the pictureſque.

Theſe attractions have for a long time paſt drawn reſidents of rank and opulence to Hampſtead; and many names of diſtinction are reckoned among its inhabitants. Sir Henry Vane had a houſe here, which afterwards belonged to Dr. Butler, the celebrated biſhop of Durham. Several diſtinguiſhed characters of the law have at different times choſen it for their country retreat; and at preſent it contains the ſeats of the Lord Chancellor, the Maſter of the Rolls, and other eminent perſons of the profeſſion. At the edge of the brow adjoining to Cane-wood is the reſidence of that moſt diſtinguiſhed orator and pleader the Hon. Thomas Erſkine. Some of

the firſt wits and poets, as Gay, Arbuthnot, and Steele, have occupied temporary lodgings here; the latter paſſed ſome of the latter part of his life at a ſmall houſe on Haverſtock-hill in this pariſh. The eminent actors, Booth, Wilks, and Cibber had a ſummer retirement on the heath; and the ingenious poet and phyſician Dr. Akenſide reſided at Hampſtead ſeveral years. At this day, ſeveral perſons well known in the literary world are inhabitants of this delightful ſpot. One of theſe is George Steevens, Eſq. whoſe name will deſcend to poſterity as the moſt able and induſtrious of the annotators of Shakeſpeare.

The church at Hampſtead is a modern brick building, with a ſquare tower, ſurmounted by a low ſpire. It contains the monument of Dr. Aſkew, noted as the poſſeſſor of a very valuable collection of books, particularly claſſics. The church-yard is furniſhed with a number of conſpicuous and handſome tombs, worthy of notice on the ſpot, though the enumeration here would be unintereſting. The living is a perpetual curacy, under the patronage of the lord of the manor. There is likewiſe a chapel of eaſe at Hampſtead, and a meeting for diſſenters of the preſbyterian denomination, and another for the methodiſts.

A chalybeat ſpring on the eaſt ſide of the town was formerly much frequented. Near it are long rooms for dancing and other public amuſements. Kilbourn-wells, alſo in this pariſh, afford a water of a ſaline and cathartic nature. Here is the ſite of an ancient abbey, near the preſent tea-drinking houſe. A noted place of entertainment on the heath, called the Spaniard, is much frequented on account of its pleaſant ſituation, near the grounds of Cane-wood; and other places for a ſimilar purpoſe are open for the holiday viſitors of the beauties of Hampſtead. The village, however, is not one of thoſe which has much partaken of the late ſpirit of building, and its population has had a very gradual increaſe for fifteen or twenty years paſt. The preſent number of houſes in the pariſh is near 700.

The land is almoſt entirely in graſs farms, except a conſiderable proportion of waſte. At Weſt-end, between Hampſtead and Kilbourn, is the handſome reſidence of Mrs. Beckford, ſituated in the midſt of fine encloſed grounds. Though at the bottom of Hampſtead-hill, it has elevation enough to command a pleaſing proſpect on every ſide. About a mile north-weſt of Kilbourn-wells, in the road to Wilſdon, lady Saliſbury has a beautiful ſeat in a very pleaſant ſituation.

ACTON.

THIS village is ſituated upon an eminence on the Uxbridge road, five miles from Tybourn turnpike. It was once much celebrated for its medicinal water, of the ſaline purgative kind, iſſuing from three wells about half a mile from Eaſt Acton, which rendered it a faſhionable place of reſort about the middle of the preſent century; but the ſame influence of faſhion has now cauſed them to be deſerted; and with their fame, the gaiety of the village is loſt. Acton has been at different periods the reſidence of ſeveral perſons of note. One of its manors has paſſed through ſome noble families to the preſent proprietor, Benjamin Lethieullier, Eſq. Lord Rouſe, a perſon of note in Cromwell's adminiſtration, had a houſe here; as had likewiſe the celebrated parliament general Philip Skippon; and the learned lawyer and excellent man Sir Matthew Hale. Baxter, the eminent nonconformiſt divine, reſided here many years after the Reſtoration. The polemic Daniel Featley was once rector here: and was ſucceeded by a champion of the oppoſite party, Philip Nye, recorded in Hudibras. Lord chief juſtice Vaughan, and Saville, marquis of Halifax, had houſes at Acton.

The pariſh church, a mixture of old and new architecture, has a ſquare brick tower, from its ſituation a conſpicuous object to the vicinity. It has monuments of various perſons of ſome rank. In the church-yard a tomb records an extraordinary inſtance of longevity, that of William Aldridge, wheelwright, who died in 1698, at the age of 114. The living is a rectory, under the juriſdiction and patronage of the biſhop of London. By the regiſter, a modern increaſe of population appears, which has probably chiefly taken place at Turnham-green, part of which is in this pariſh, and forms handſome rows of building on the ſide of the great Bath road.

The greater part of the land is under the plough, and affords a pleaſing view of rural agriculture, eſpecially during harveſt, to the neighbouring metropolis.

EALING.

THIS village is pleaſantly ſituated near the Uxbridge road about two miles beyond Acton. Its manor belongs to the biſhop of London. The pariſh is extenſive,

ſive, containing, beſides the village, the hamlets of Little Ealing, Gunnerſbury, and Old Brentford. There are ſeveral diſtinguiſhed ſeats in it: as Ealing-houſe, Cold-hall, Hickes-upon-the-heath, Ealing-grove, Place-houſe, and Gunnerſbury-houſe. The latter was built by Webbe, a pupil of Inigo Jones, for that celebrated lawyer ſerjeant Maynard, after whoſe death it came into the hands of the earl of Suffolk and other perſons, and was at length ſold to the late princeſs Amelia, who made it her ſummer reſidence, and conſiderably enlarged it. Dr. John Owen, a very eminent preſbyterian divine, was long an inhabitant of Ealing; the learned biſhop Pearce had a houſe in it inherited from his father; and that humourous writer Henry Fielding, and the brave ſoldier lord Heathfield, had reſidences in this pariſh.

The church is a new brick building, with a tower and turret. The living is a vicarage, in the patronage of the biſhop of London. George-chapel in Old Brentford is in this pariſh; and at the ſame place are meetings of preſbyterians, anabaptiſts, and methodiſts. The ſunday ſchools in the pariſh, inſtituted by Mr. Sturges the preſent vicar, and carefully ſuperintended by Mrs. Trimmer of Old Brentford, have proved remarkably ſucceſsful in improving the riſing generation. The population of Ealing has conſiderably increaſed of late years, eſpecially in that part of it which is compriſed in Old Brentford, and which contains about 500 of the 700 houſes conſtituting its preſent number. Of the land, about one half is in graſs, the other moſtly arable, except 250 acres occupied by market gardeners. Great quantities of wall-fruit are grown here for ſale, and there are large plantations of raſpberries for the diſtillers.

CHISWICK.

THIS is one of the villages which decorate the banks of the Thames, and contribute ſo much to the pleaſure and convenience of the metropolis. Its diſtance from Hyde-park-corner is about five miles. Its houſes are partly in a group near the river, and partly border the great weſt road at Turnham-green. Of the remarkable objects it affords, the principal is the duke of Devonſhire's beautiful ſeat, on the ſite of an ancient manſion, which after belonging to ſeveral perſons of rank, paſſed into the Burlington family; the laſt earl of which name, ſo celebrated for

his taſte in architecture, built a ſmall but elegant villa after a deſign of Palladio. He at the ſame time laid out the gardens in the Italian ſtyle, decorating them profuſely with temples, ſtatues, and other ornamental works, either antique, or by the beſt maſters of the time. From his daughter and heireſs it came to the Devonſhire family; and the houſe has received large additions from the preſent duke, after a plan of Wyatt's, correſponding to the deſign of the original edifice.

The Ruſſel family poſſeſſed a ſeat in the pariſh of Chiſwick, which in the reign of Elizabeth was occupied by Sir William Ruſſel, a diſtinguiſhed military character. After belonging to various members of that family, it paſſed into other hands, and at length, under the name of *Corney-houſe*, was purchaſed by its preſent owner, Sir C. W. Rouſe Boughton, Bart.

Grove-houſe, now the beautiful villa of Mrs. Luther on the banks of the Thames, dates as far back as the reign of Henry IV. It was for ſeveral generations the property of the Barker family, and at length by purchaſe came to the earl of Grantham, who laid out the pleaſure-grounds. The houſe owes its chief additions and improvements to Mr. Morrice, who was the next purchaſer. Its paddock abounds with walnut and Spaniſh cheſnut trees.

A capital houſe at Turnham-green was the principal reſidence of lord Heathfield before his death. It now belongs to Dr. Meyerſbach. Sir Henry Sidney, lord preſident of Ireland in Elizabeth's reign, had a houſe at Chiſwick. The Chaloner family reſided here; and that celebrated traveller Sir John Chardin ended his life at Turnham-green. The counteſs of Fauconberg, daughter to Oliver Cromwell, reſided at Sutton-court in this pariſh. Sir Stephen Fox, founder of the Fox family, had an elegant villa here. Many other perſons of rank, and ſeveral eminent literary characters, have been inhabitants of Chiſwick. Charles Holland, an actor of eminence, was a native of the place. Ralph, the political writer; Hogarth, the inimitable moral painter; Dr. Morell, an eminent claſſical ſcholar; and Dr. Roſe, an able critic and writer; paſſed more or leſs of their lives here.

The church of Chiſwick is an old ſtructure of ſtone and flint, with a tower. Among its monuments, ſome of the moſt remarkable are thoſe of Sir Thomas Chaloner; of Mr. Thomas Bentley, partner of Mr. Wedgwood the potter, and greatly inſtrumental by his taſte in improving the elegance of that manufacture;

of

of Charles Holland; of William Hogarth; and of Dr. Roſe. The living is a vicarage, in the patronage of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's. The population of this pariſh has conſiderably augmented of late years, the principal increaſe of buildings having been at Turnham-green. The preſent number of houſes is about 430. The land in the pariſh is partly arable, partly in graſs, and a very conſiderable proportion occupied by market gardeners for the ſupply of London with fruit and vegetables.

FULHAM.

THIS village is contiguous to the Thames, at four miles diſtance from Hyde-park-corner. It is particularly of note, as having been for a long period the chief ſummer reſidence of the biſhops of London, who have alſo been lords of the manor. The palace is a brick edifice, with a large quadrangle, built in the reign of Henry VII. It has had various additions, alterations, and repairs at different periods, and is now of leſs extent than in former times, though much more commodious and habitable. Its chapel contains ſome fine painted glaſs; and in the library are ſeveral portraits of the different poſſeſſors of the ſee, collected by the preſent biſhop, who has a laudable deſign of rendering the ſeries as complete as poſſible. The gardens are remarkable for ſome exotic trees of ſingular age and ſize, planted by biſhop Compton. They, together with the houſe, are ſurrounded by a moat; and ſome beautiful ſituations on the river bank have been formed into elegant walks and ſhrubberies.

Other remarkable buildings in this pariſh are *Ravenſcourt*, once the ſite of a manor-houſe poſſeſſed by the famous Alice Pierce, miſtreſs to Edward III.; *Stourton-houſe*, long the reſidence of the noble family of that name; and *Peterborough-houſe* at Parſon's-green, once diſtinguiſhed by its poſſeſſor, the celebrated Charles earl of Peterborough, but now almoſt dilapidated. Many other old manſions are now converted into boarding-ſchools, or have been pulled down for the materials. Several eminent perſons have made this pariſh their reſidence; as Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the public library at Oxford; admiral Sir Charles Wager; lord chief juſtice Vaughan; Samuel Richardſon, the celebrated noveliſt; John Norden, the topographer; Tonſon and Lintot, well-known bookſellers; Cateſby, the naturaliſt; and Samuel Foote, the dramatic writer and actor.

The pariſh church is an ancient ſtone edifice, with a Gothic tower. It contains ſeveral remarkable monuments; as thoſe of lady Legh; Sir W. Butts, phyſician to Henry VIII.; Sir Thomas Smith, a riſing man in public life at the beginning of the laſt century; John viſcount Mordaunt (the work of Buſhnell and Bird); Samuel Barrow, M. D. The biſhops of whom there are monuments in the church-yard are, Compton, Robinſon, Gibſon, Sherlock, Hayter, Terrick, and Lowth. The rectory of Fulham is a ſinecure. The vicarage is in the rector's gift.

Fulham pariſh has two diviſions, that of Fulham, and of Hammerſmith; of the firſt of which we only treat at preſent. Its population has gradually increaſed, and the number of houſes now ſomewhat exceeds 700. Its land is nearly half occupied by market gardeners; the reſt is almoſt equally divided between graſs and corn.

A wooden bridge over the Thames connects Fulham with the oppoſite village of Putney.

HAMMERSMITH.

THE main part of this populous village is ſituated on the great weſtern road about a mile beyond Kenſington, and thence extends to the river's ſide. It is of particular note for its nurſery-grounds, in ſome of which, rare and curious exotics are cultivated on a great ſcale and with ſingular ſucceſs.

One of the moſt diſtinguiſhed manſions in this diſtrict is that now called *Brandenburgh-houſe*, on the bank of the Thames. A magnificent houſe was firſt built here by Sir Nicholas Criſpe, in the reign of Charles I. Its owner was obliged to leave it during the civil wars, and Fairfax made it his quarters when his army lay at Hammerſmith in 1647. Criſpe recovered it at the Reſtoration, and his nephew ſold it to prince Rupert, who made a preſent of it to his miſtreſs, Margaret Hughes. After paſſing through ſeveral hands, it came at length into the poſſeſſion of George Doddington, afterwards lord Melcombe, who expended a great ſum in moderniſing and adorning the houſe, and furniſhing it with ſtatues and antiques. In the year 1792 it was purchaſed by the margrave of Brandenburgh-Anſpach, who now reſides at it; and with his conſort, late the relict of lord Craven, has employed

employed all the reſources of modern taſte and ſplendour to render it a model of elegance and convenience. It has a ſmall theatre, in which dramatic performances are occaſionally exhibited for the entertainment of viſitors.

Butterwick-houſe, near the chapel of Hammerſmith, was anciently the reſidence of Edmund Sheffield, earl of Mulgrave. It was moderniſed by Mr. Ferne, and is now in the poſſeſſion of Michael Impey, Eſq.

Other diſtinguiſhed inhabitants of Hammerſmith at various periods were, the Rev. Mikepher Alphery, of the imperial family of Ruſſia; Sir Leoline Jenkins, ſecretary of ſtate to Charles I.; queen Katharine, dowager of Charles II.; Sir Samuel Morland, eminent for mechanics; admiral Sir John Munden; Dr. Radcliffe, the celebrated phyſician; Sir Clifton Wintringham, of the ſame profeſſion; and Thomas Worlidge the painter.

The chapel at Hammerſmith is a brick building, with a ſquare tower and turret. It contains the monuments of Edmund earl of Mulgrave, and Sir Nicholas Criſpe, and a fine bronze buſt of Charles I. erected by the latter. The living is a curacy in the patronage of the biſhop of London. The village has alſo meetings for the preſbyterians, anabaptiſts, quakers, and methodiſts; and there are two Roman catholic chapels, one of them at a nunnery, which has ſubſiſted here from the reign of Charles II. and has been a noted place of education for young ladies of that religion. The population of Hammerſmith has partaken conſiderably of the late increaſe about London. The preſent number of houſes is about 790.

Of the land in this diviſion about half is arable, the reſt in graſs, and under the occupation of market gardeners and nurſery-men.

Edmonton Hundred.

TOTTENHAM.

THE village of Tottenham is ſituated a ſhort diſtance from the weſtern bank of the river Lea, about five miles north of Shoreditch church. The pariſh is of conſiderable extent, containing near 4000 acres, for the moſt part graſs land, except about one-eighth, which is arable. The varieties of ſoil are clay, loam, and brick earth. The number of houſes is about 470, which gives a population of nearly

1900.

1900. In the centre of the village is erected an octangular brick column, which occupies the ſite of an ancient wooden croſs; hence it is that the name of Tottenham-high-croſs is derived. A ſmall brook called the Moſe, riſing from Muſwell-hill near Hornſey, traverſes the pariſh in its courſe to the Lea; the New River alſo enlivens with its numerous windings the fields on the weſtern extremity. The pariſh church, dedicated to All-Saints, is a Gothic ſtructure, built of ſtone, flints, and pebbles, and ornamented with monuments to the memory of the noble family of Coleraine and others. There are beſides two other places appropriated to public worſhip, a conſiderable quakers' meeting, and a chapel belonging to the methodiſts. The private houſes worthy of note are, Bruce-caſtle, the manſion to that portion of the old manor which was poſſeſſed by Robert Bruce, competitor with Baliol for the crown of Scotland; it was rebuilt by Sir William Compton about the year 1514, and was altered and repaired in the latter end of the laſt century by Henry lord Coleraine: Pembrokes and Mockings, two old moated manor-houſes, deſerve alſo to be mentioned.

William Baxter, the learned editor of Anacreon and Horace, was for many years maſter of the free-ſchool here: beſides the above-mentioned works he was the author of a Latin grammar, and of ſeveral papers in the Philoſophical Tranſactions: part alſo of the Engliſh tranſlation of Plutarch is to be attributed to him.

At this place is laid the ſcene of a very humourous burleſque poem, called the "Tournament of Tottenham," written in ridicule of the grave fooleries that were practiſed at the ancient ſingle combats. It is printed in Dr. Percy's elegant "Reliques of Ancient Engliſh Poetry."

EDMONTON.

THIS village, which gives its name to the hundred in which it is ſituated, lies north of Tottenham, between the river Lea and the New River. Within the limits of the pariſh are contained about 3660 acres, excluſive of 1231 acres of waſte land on Enfield-chaſe. Of the cultivated part 1090 acres are open arable, about 570 incloſed arable, 1540 meadow land, and 430 marſh paſture. The ſoil for the moſt part is a rich loam and marl, containing however ſome ſpots of gravel, of clay, and peat earth. This pariſh has trebled its population during the two laſt centuries; the

the preſent number of houſes, including 180 at the hamlet of Southgate and Palmer's-green, is 810; giving a population of about 3650.

The ſcenery is ſtrongly characteriſed by thoſe general features which belong to the borders of foreſts and other wooded waſtes; and an elegant ſpecimen of ornamented woodland is exhibited in Buſh-hill-park, which is ſaid to have been originally laid out by Le Nautre.

When Sir Hugh Middleton opened the New-river, the principles of engineering were ſo little underſtood, that, in order to overcome the inequalities of the ground at Buſh-hill, it was thought expedient to make an open wooden trough or aqueduct 660 feet long, ſupported by arches, to preſerve a communication between the upper and lower part of the channel: nor was it till the year 1784 that the aqueduct was replaced by an embankment, according to the modern more ſecure way of conveying canals acroſs vallies.

The pariſh church is a large Gothic ſtructure, with a ſquare embattled tower, containing ſeveral monuments of the Middletons and others. At Southgate is a chapel of eaſe, in which during the laſt ſeventy years a ſeparate regiſter has been kept of the births and burials in this hamlet. Beſides theſe two places of public worſhip for the uſe of the eſtabliſhment, there are three chapels of methodiſts, one of preſbyterian diſſenters, and one of quakers.

There are three fairs held annually in this pariſh, one in the town of Edmonton, and two on the chaſe near Southgate.

The private houſes worthy of note are, Wyer-hall, an ancient manſion named from the family of Wyrehalle, who were poſſeſſed of lands here in the time of Edward III. It is now in poſſeſſion of the family of Huxley, one of whom rebuilt the houſe in the year 1611. Buſh-hill-park, the ſeat of the widow of the late Joſeph Melliſh, Eſq.; the hall is remarkable for a very curious piece of carving in wood by the celebrated Grinling Gibbons, repreſenting the ſtoning of Stephen.

The hamlet of Southgate, conſiſting of an irregular aſſemblage of houſes intermixed with trees, is one of the moſt pleaſing rural reſidences near the metropolis, and has many reſpectable inhabitants. Minchenden-houſe, the ſeat of the late duke, and of the preſent ducheſs, of Chandos, with its plantations, is one of the moſt conſiderable objects. Canon-grove, belonging to alderman Curtis; the reſidence of Mr. Taſh near it; and the villa of Iſaac Smith, Eſq. at Palmer's-green; are other ornaments to this neighbourhood.

ENFIELD.

THE town of Enfield is ſituated about ten miles north of London, in the moſt extenſive pariſh of any in the hundred. The Lea is its eaſtern boundary; the pariſh of Edmonton its ſouthern one; the Hertfordſhire border confines it on the weſt; and the pariſhes of Barnet and South Mims on the north. It contains, excluſive of the chaſe, about 6430 acres, of which 800 are marſh land, 2750 common field, 1640 incloſed arable, and 1240 incloſed paſture. The ſoil, except on the marſh, is for the moſt part a fertile loam. The northern extremity of the pariſh is occupied by part of Enfield chaſe, an extenſive woody tract containing 8349 acres; the whole of which was formerly in poſſeſſion of the crown, till in the year 1777 an act of parliament was paſſed, to divide the chaſe, and aſſign allotments to ſuch individuals and pariſhes as claimed a right of common: the portion that fell to the lot of Enfield pariſh was 1732 acres, which added to the king's above, and thoſe of private claimants, leaves 5824 acres in this pariſh, thus making the whole extent of the pariſh equal to 12,250 acres. The poverty of the ſoil, and difficulty of clearing away the wood, oppoſed however very formidable obſtacles to its cultivation; and it was not till within theſe ſix or ſeven laſt years that any progreſs was made in the work: at that period a large quantity of very fine marl having been diſcovered, it has ſince been made uſe of with conſiderable ſucceſs; but, notwithſtanding this advantage, 1530 acres ſtill remain in an uncultivated ſtate: the 200 acres which are incloſed are worth upon an average thirty ſhillings an acre.

There has been a conſiderable, though gradual, increaſe in the population of this pariſh; the preſent number of houſes is 920, containing probably about 4140 inhabitants.

The pariſh church is a Gothic ſtructure, with a ſquare embattled tower, built about the beginning of the fifteenth century, and containing the monuments of lady Tiptoft, mother of the learned earl of Worceſter, who died A. D. 1446; of Edmund lord Roos, of Sir N. Raynton, lord mayor of London about the beginning of the laſt century; and of ſeveral other eminent London merchants. The other buildings appropriated to public worſhip are, a meeting-houſe for the anabaptiſts, another for the quakers, two for the methodiſts, and one for the preſbyterian diſſenters; of this laſt congregation the celebrated Edmund Calamy was miniſter; he died here in November 1666.

Two

Two annual fairs are held here; but the weekly market which was granted by James I. has been many years diſcontinued. Enfield was formerly celebrated for tanning; at preſent, however, there is only one large tan-yard, which, together with works for making marbled paper, is the ſole manufactory in the pariſh.

The manor-houſe, called Enfield-houſe, is worthy of notice as one of the royal reſidences during the reign of Henry VIII. Edward VI. granted the manor to his ſiſter the princeſs Elizabeth, who lived here for ſome time, and afterwards, when queen, made frequent viſits hither; one of the rooms remains at preſent in its original ſtate of cumbrous magnificence. In the year 1670 it was the reſidence of Dr. Uvedale, who had a botanical garden here, and among other trees planted a cedar of Libanus, which at preſent is one of the fineſt in the kingdom, being twelve feet in girth, at a yard from the ground. The other remarkable houſes in this pariſh are, South Bailey-lodge, formerly the occaſional reſidence of the great earl of Chatham, and latterly of the late alderman Skinner; Eaſt Bailey-lodge, for ſome time the reſidence of lord Loughborough while Mr. Wedderburne; Trent-place, with a park of about 200 acres, reclaimed from the chaſe by the late Sir Richard Jebb, M. D.: the houſe is a villa built after an Italian model. Forty-hall, built by Inigo Jones; Lincoln-houſe, at Ponder's-end, now a ſchool, but formerly occupied by the Fiennes, earls of Lincoln. That eminent antiquary and hiſtorian, Richard Gough, Eſq. has long been, and is ſtill, a reſident in this place.

The New-river traverſes with a very winding courſe this pariſh from north to ſouth, and is carried acroſs the ſtream, which, riſing in the high grounds of the chaſe, proceeds in an eaſterly direction by the town of Enfield, forming the Waſh, and ſoon after diſcharges itſelf into the Lea.

Beſides thoſe above mentioned, ſeveral other diſtinguiſhed perſons have at different times reſided in this pariſh; particularly, Philip earl of Pembroke, chancellor of Oxford, and afterwards, during the civil wars, a member of the Houſe of Commons in the year 1649; Sir George Wharton, a noted aſtrologer and zealous royaliſt during the civil wars, created a baronet in 1677 by Charles II.

Goare Hundred.

HARROW on the HILL.

THE town of Harrow, ſituated about ten miles from Tybourn-turnpike, gives its name to a very extenſive pariſh, containing about 13,600 acres; of theſe about 1600 are waſte, and the remainder is nearly equally divided between arable and paſture. The population of Harrow and its hamlets, including that of Pinner, where a ſeparate regiſter is kept, is about 1800.

The ſituation of Harrow, as its appellation imports, is lofty; it ſtands on one of the higheſt points of the ridge of gravel hills, that bounds the flat ſouthern extremity of Middleſex; and its taper ſpire emboſomed in trees, forms a very pleaſing and conſpicuous object from the ſurrounding villages. Its elevated and almoſt inſulated ſite affords an extenſive proſpect on every ſide: to the eaſt and ſouth the whole length of the metropolis preſents itſelf, with the dome of St. Paul's riſing majeſtically above the cloud of ſmoke that uſually inveſts the lower buildings: while the horizon is agreeably diverſified by the eaſy ſwelling forms of the Surry hills. The northern view, though not ſo comprehenſive, is perhaps as pleaſing as the other, exhibiting in the nearer diſtance the village of Stanmore, and the elegant ſeat of the marquis of Abercorn, beyond which aſcends rapidly the high ground compoſing Harrow Weald. The ſcenes, however, to the weſt and ſouth-weſt are, perhaps, the moſt intereſting of any, and may be ſeen to the greateſt advantage from the church-yard; they include the wild beauties of Roxeth common, the rich cultivation of the vale of Thames, the diſtant towers of Windſor-caſtle, and the wooded hills of Berks and Buckingham.

Harrow church, diſtinguiſhed by its lofty ſpire, was founded by archbiſhop Lanfranc before the conqueſt, and a conſiderable part of the old edifice ſtill remains: it was rebuilt about the fourteenth century. The moſt remarkable monuments which it contains are thoſe of Sir Samuel Garth, M. D. the author of the ingenious and witty poem called the Diſpenſary; of J. Lyon, yeoman, founder of Harrow ſchool; and of Dr. Sumner, the late head-maſter; whoſe epitaph, an elegant ſpecimen of latinity, is the production of the learned Dr. Parr, one of his ſcholars.

The living of Harrow is a vicarage, in the gift of the lord of the manor, and under the peculiar juriſdiction of the archbiſhop of Canterbury. The great tithes belong to Chriſt-church college, Oxford.

The free-ſchool at this place, which for ſome years paſt has ranked among the firſt of our public ſeminaries, was founded in the year 1590 by John Lyon, a yeoman of Preſton, who before this period had been accuſtomed to appropriate a certain annual ſum to teaching poor children. Harrow ſchool roſe into eminence under the adminiſtration of Dr. Thackeray: the learned Dr. Sumner, his ſucceſſor, added conſiderably to its reputation; and though his premature death, which happened in the year 1771, in the 41ſt of his age, early deprived the public of the benefit of his abilities, yet he left behind him no dubious proofs of his ſkill, in his ſcholars, the biſhop of Cloyne, Dr. Parr, Mr. Sheridan, and the late much-regretted Sir William Jones. The preſent maſter is Dr. Drury, under whom the ſchool retains its reputation and numbers, which are uſually about 150.

The moſt remarkable private building belonging to this pariſh is the houſe on the manor of Bentley, which was purchaſed about nine years ago by the marquis of Abercorn; who by making large additions and improvements has converted it into a noble manſion, wherein elegance and convenience are ſingularly united. The rooms are ſpacious, and adorned with ſome ſelect antique buſts, and ſeveral capital pictures, of which the moſt eſteemed is the dream of St. Jerome by Parmegiano. The portraits exhibit ſome of the moſt illuſtrious individuals of the Hamilton family, and are painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, Sir Joſhua Reynolds, and Lawrence.

The pleaſure-grounds and plantations occupy nearly 200 acres; and the elevated ſituation of the houſe gives it the command of a varied and extenſive proſpect.

On the brow of Harrow-hill, as you deſcend to Sunbury-common, Colonel Ironſide has a ſmall villa, with a beautiful garden and ſhrubbery.

The hamlet of *Pinner* is ſituated on an eminence about three miles to the north of Harrow, near the border of Hertfordſhire, and had once a market, which has been long diſuſed. Its chapel is a large old ſtructure, finiſhed in 1321, and having an embattled tower. The living is a perpetual curacy, under the vicar of Harrow. There is a ſmall meeting-houſe of independents in this place.

The manor-houſe of Wembley, in the pariſh of Harrow, on the London ſide, is the preſent ſeat of Richard Page, Eſq. Scarcely any ſituation ſo near the metropolis can vie with it in the charms of rural retirement; and it has lately undergone all the improvements of which ſuch a ſpot is capable, from the fine taſte of Mr. Repton, ſo well known as a layer-out of pleaſure-grounds. A building of great apparent magni-

magnificence, but which is in reality only a kind of ſummer banqueting-houſe, has been erected on a fine eminence in the park, which commands an extenſive proſpect, and is itſelf a ſtriking object from the road.

HENDON.

THIS pariſh contains about 8200 acres, of which 300 are arable, 120 woodland, and the remainder paſture and meadow; the ſoil is for the moſt part clay with a mixture of gravel. The village is pleaſantly ſituated, and of conſiderable extent, being divided into ſeveral hamlets or ſmall cluſters of houſes, one of which, Golder's-hill, was for ſome time the reſidence of Dr. Akenſide, the author of a well-known poem "On the Pleaſures of the Imagination." The number of inhabitants is eſtimated at about 1100. There are ſeveral opulent reſidents, and the neighbourhood is adorned with ſome fine ſeats.

The church is an old ſtructure with a ſquare embattled tower, a pleaſing object to the ſurrounding diſtrict. It contains ſeveral monuments; among others, thoſe of ſeveral members of the noble family of Powis, of Sir William Rawlinſon, and of Edward Fowler, biſhop of Glouceſter. Here alſo were buried, James Parſons, M. D. aſſiſtant ſecretary for foreign correſpondence to the Royal Society, and author of ſome treatiſes on natural hiſtory, and an Hiſtorical Enquiry into the Origin of the European Languages; and Sir William Ayloffe, for many years vice-preſident of the Society of Antiquaries, and one of its earlieſt members. The living is a vicarage, under the patronage of the lords of the manor.

At Hendon is an alms-houſe, founded in 1727, in conſequence of a bequeſt of 2000*l.* made in 1681 by Robert Daniel, for the ſupport of which an eſtate in Oxfordſhire was at the ſame time purchaſed. It is for ſix men and four women. There is likewiſe a charity-ſchool, at which ſeventy children are educated, forty of whom are allowed clothing. Mr. Willock, auctioneer, who was brought up in it, has laudably diſplayed his gratitude to the inſtitution by the erection of ſome additional buildings. He poſſeſſes a pleaſant ſeat and extenſive grounds in his native village.

Mill-hill is ſituated on a fine eminence much higher than the ground at Hendon, and commands extenſive views. It has ſeveral handſome villas with gardens and pleaſure-grounds ſloping from the hill, and is one of the moſt retired ſituations

within that diſtance of town, lying out of the great roads between Eaſt Barnet and Edgware, about a mile and a half from Hendon. In this place is a botanical garden, planted by the late Mr. Collinſon, and ſtill kept up by his ſon, M. Collinſon, Eſq.

EDGWARE.

THE pariſh of Edgware contains about 1800 acres of land, of which ſcarcely more than a twentieth part is arable; the ſoil is a ſtiff clay. The number of houſes is ſeventy-ſix, giving a population of about 340. The pariſh church is an old, low building, not worthy of notice; and the only private houſe deſerving of mention, is one at Brockley-hill in the poſſeſſion of W. Godfrey, Eſq. It commands a very extenſive proſpect, and contains in the drawing-room ſome large pictures, which are ſaid to have belonged to the collection of Charles I.

STANMORE MAGNA.

THIS pariſh contains about 1400 acres, of which about 300 are arable, 850 meadow and paſture, and 250 commons and roads. The number of houſes is 140, giving a population of about 630.

The pariſh church was built in the year 1632, at the expenſe of Sir John Wolſtenholme, Knt. and contains ſeveral monuments of the family of its founder, and of that of the Drummonds. It has a venerable tower, clothed with ivy.

It is thought by Dr. Stukely that the old city of Sulloniaca was ſituated in this pariſh, not far from Brockley-hill, and it is certain that many Roman antiquities, ſuch as coins, urns, rings, &c. have been formerly dug up in this neighbourhood.

The chief private buildings are, the houſe of the late G. Drummond, Eſq. near Belmont, ſituated in an extenſive park, and containing ſeveral royal and noble portraits, for the moſt part of the laſt century; the ſeat of J. Forbes, Eſq. remarkable for ſome curious ſpecimens of Hindoo ſculpture, collected by Mr. Forbes during a reſidence at Bombay; and the ſeat of George Hemming, Eſq. originally a banqueting-houſe, built by the duke of Chandos.

Stanmore uſed to be much diſtreſſed for water, its only ſupply being from a reſervoir on the top of the hill; but the inhabitants ſome years ago ſunk a well to the depth of 150 feet, which has afforded them a conſtant ſpring of good water.

STAN-

STANMORE PARVA, *or* WHITECHURCH.

THIS pariſh contains about 1500 acres, of which 130 are arable, and the remainder meadow and paſture. The ſoil is for the moſt part a ſtiff clay.

The number of inhabited houſes is eighty-one, giving a population of about 360.

It is at Canons in this pariſh that Mr. Brydges, afterwards duke of Chandos, about the year 1712 erected a manſion of extraordinary magnificence. It was built entirely of ſtone in the form of a large ſquare, preſenting one of its corners to the extremity of the grand avenue, in ſuch a manner, that at a ſmall diſtance the two viſible ſides appeared like a front of amazing extent. The profuſion of buſts, of ſtatues, and marble ornaments of various kinds; of painted ceilings and ſtaircaſes, and all the luxury of architecture, of viſtas, lakes, canals, and terraces, conſumed the enormous ſum of 200,000*l.* James of Greenwich was the architect; and Dr. Alexander Blackwell, author of a treatiſe on agriculture, was director of the pleaſure-grounds. In this palace the duke reſided with all the ſtate and ſplendour of a ſovereign prince. The want of taſte, however, and vanity diſplayed in this vaſt undertaking, provoked a ſevere criticiſm from Pope in the fourth of his Moral Eſſays, under the deſcription of Timon's villa, the concluding lines of which have proved to be ſingularly prophetic:

> "Another age ſhall ſee the golden ear
> "Imbrown the ſlope, and nod on the parterre;
> "Deep harveſts bury all his pride has plann'd,
> "And laughing Ceres reaſſume the land."

For, on the death of the duke, the manſion, being ſuppoſed to demand an eſtabliſhment diſproportionate to the income of his ſucceſſor, after many fruitleſs endeavours to diſpoſe of it entire, was pulled down and ſold piecemeal. The equeſtrian ſtatue of George I. was removed from the park to its preſent poſition in Leiceſter-ſquare; and the grand ſtaircaſe now adorns the houſe of the earl of Cheſterfield in May-fair. The preſent villa at Canons was built of part of the materials, by William Hallet, Eſq. who purchaſed the park and demeſne lands, and is now in the poſſeſſion of Patrick O'Kelly, Eſq. nephew of Denis O'Kelly, a character well known at Newmarket, and poſſeſſor of the famous horſe Eclipſe, whoſe remains are depoſited in the park.

The

The magnificence, however, of the duke was not confined to his own manſion. He rebuilt about the year 1715 the pariſh church, and completed its internal ornaments in the year 1720. It was opened with great pomp on the 29th of Auguſt, for which occaſion there is reaſon to ſuppoſe that Handel compoſed his ſacred drama of Eſther. The altar-piece is painted by Belluchi, the ceiling and walls by Laguerre. During the duke's reſidence at Canons, the church was celebrated for the perfection of its vocal and inſtrumental harmony. The hymns were compoſed by Handel, who officiated at Canons as chapel-maſter, and the morning and evening ſervices were ſet to muſic by Pepuſch; at the ſame time, the celebrated Deſaguliers was rector. This vanity of devotion has not eſcaped the notice of the eminent poet above-mentioned:

" And now the chapel's ſilver bell you hear,
" That ſummons you to all the pride of prayer:
" Light quirks of muſic, broken and uneven,
" Make the ſoul dance upon a jig to heaven.
" On painted ceilings you devoutly ſtare,
" Where ſprawl the ſaints of Verrio and Laguerre,
" On gilded clouds in fair expanſion lie,
" And bring all Paradiſe before your eye.
" To reſt, the cuſhion and ſoft Dean invite,
" Who never mentions hell to ears polite*."

Over the family vault, at the north end of the church, is a large chamber paved with marble, and containing ſeveral monuments of the Brydges family, eſpecially that of James duke of Chandos, of whom we have been ſpeaking.

Isleworth Hundred.

TWICKENHAM.

THIS pariſh contains about 1850 acres, of which 480 are arable, 150 fruit gardens, 490 paſture, 40 wood, and 690 common, ſtretching a conſiderable way upon Hounſlow-heath. The ſoil for the moſt part is a ſandy loam.

The number of houſes is 611; of inhabitants, according to an accurate enumeration made in 1794, including lodgers, 3355; being five and a half to a houſe.

* It is, however, to be obſerved, that this attack of Pope's upon a man of amiable qualities, and to whom he had been perſonally obliged, was ſo ill received by the public, that the bard made ſeveral attempts (though with little ſucceſs) to cauſe it to be believed that the duke of Chandos was not alluded to in the character of Timon.

On the ſmall river Crane, which runs through this pariſh, are erected ſome powder and oil mills, which are the only manufactories in the place.

But Twickenham is chiefly known for its fine ſituation on the bank of the Thames, oppoſite to the bold elevation and hanging woods of Richmond-hill; and itſelf forms an eſſential part of the proſpect from the terrace, a view which for richneſs, cultivation, and perfect beauty, is unqueſtionably the firſt in Great Britain. On this account it has ever been a favourite reſort of literary characters, and perſons of faſhion. The building moſt deſerving of notice in this pariſh, is the celebrated villa of the late lord Orford at Strawberry-hill. It was originally a ſmall lodging-houſe, for ſome time the reſidence of Colley Cibber, who there wrote his comedy of the Refuſal. In the year 1747, the earl of Orford (then the Hon. Horace Walpole) purchaſed the houſe and ſurrounding grounds, and by the aſſiſtance of Mr. Bentley, fitted up the rooms in a pure Gothic ſtyle, from models and plans ſelected from our cathedrals and other buildings in the ſame mode of architecture. The propriety and good taſte conſpicuous through the whole work, render it a ſubject, not merely of admiration, but of ſtudy. Several curious and beautiful ſpecimens of the fine arts were collected by the noble proprietor to adorn this his favourite reſidence; the chief of which are, portraits by Peter Oliver, Sir Joſhua Reynolds, Sir Peter Lely, Zucchero, Vandyke, and Hogarth; ſeveral antique buſts, and more modern pieces of ſculpture by Torregiano and Mrs. Damer; ſome valuable paintings of Holbein, and a well-choſen and extenſive collection of prints, among which is a very intereſting ſeries of Engliſh portraits.

It ought not to be forgotten that about the year 1757, Mr. Walpole fitted up here a private printing-preſs, from which have iſſued, beſides moſt of his own works, Bentley's Lucan, Memoires de Grammont, lady Temple's Poems, and ſeveral other ſmaller pieces.

Pope's villa, now occupied by lord Mendip, has, ſince his death, undergone ſeveral alterations and additions; there ſtill remain, however, many relics of that great poet, particularly his favourite grotto—

"Where ling'ring drops from mineral roofs diſtil,
"And pointed cryſtals break the ſparkling rill;
* * * * * * *
"Where, nobly penſive, St. John ſat and thought;
"Where Britiſh ſighs from dying Wyndham ſtole,
"And the bright flame was ſhot through Marchmont's ſoul."

Sir

Sir Godfrey Kneller, and the late Sir William Chambers, had each of them houſes at Twickenham; as alſo the two celebrated reſtorers of experimental philoſophy, lord Bacon and Robert Boyle; thoſe exquiſite actreſſes Mrs. Clive and Mrs. Pritchard; Fielding, the great noveliſt; and the witty, verſatile, and profligate duke of Wharton.

ISLEWORTH.

THIS pariſh contains about 2370 acres, the greater part of which is divided almoſt equally between arable and paſture: there are beſides 14 acres occupied by nurſery-men, 430 by market gardeners; and about 400 are waſte, being part of Hounſlow-heath. The ſoil is ſand, gravel, and rich loam.

At Baberbridge in this pariſh are copper and braſs mills, the property of the duke of Northumberland, but rented by the incorporated ſociety of the mines royal; moſt of the ore manufactured here uſed to be procured from the Mendip-hills. At Iſleworth are a conſiderable china manufactory, ſome extenſive calico-grounds, and two large flour-mills.

There is a good wharf, at which a great quantity of coals are landed, and much gunpowder from the Hounſlow mills is ſhipped to go down the river.

The chief trade of the pariſh, however, conſiſts in the vaſt ſupply of vegetables which it ſends from its numerous gardens to the metropolis, and which are for the moſt part conveyed by the Thames. Beſide the uſual articles, there are here extenſive plantations of raſpberries, which are raiſed chiefly for the uſe of the diſtillers, and conveyed to London in ſwing carts; ſuch of the fruit as is intended for the table is carried by women, who come principally from Shropſhire and Wiltſhire. Each load conſiſts of twelve gallons of three pints each, and is gathered by twelve women, one of whom afterwards carries it to Covent-garden market, a diſtance of ten miles, for which ſhe receives three ſhillings and ſixpence. The rate at which theſe women uſually go with their burden, is near five miles an hour.

A very accurate ſtatement of the population of this pariſh in October 1794, has been procured by Sir Joſeph Banks; whence the following particulars have been ſelected:—The whole number of houſes is 712; of theſe, 43 belong to gentlemen, 6 are farm-houſes, 26 public houſes, the remainder ſhops, cottages, &c. The inhabitants are 4190, of whom 171 are lodgers: of the ſtationary inhabitants 2223 are grown perſons (982 males, 1241 females) and 1796 children (956 males, 840 females).

The village of Iſleworth, which gives its name to the hundred, is delightfully ſituated on the Thames bank, at the mouth of the little river Crane; and has been, and ſtill continues, the reſidence of many perſons of rank. The principal building in the pariſh is *Sion-houſe*, a ſeat of the duke of Northumberland. It was formerly a convent of Bridgetines founded by Henry the Fifth; and the liberality of ſucceeding kings added largely to its revenues, ſo that at its diſſolution in 1532 it was poſſeſſed of thirty-ſeven manors, beſides tithes, rents, and other ſources of emolument. When ſecularized it paſſed from the duke of Somerſet to the duke of Northumberland; it afterwards returned by marriage to Charles duke of Somerſet, and again ſoon after came into the poſſeſſion of the noble family of Percy. The preſent manſion was repaired and fitted up at much coſt by the late duke of Northumberland, who adorned it with ſeveral pieces of ancient ſculpture from Italy, and with twelve Ionic columns, and ſixteen pilaſters of that rare and valuable ſpecies of marble called *verde antique*—a larger collection than is to be found in any other private building in Europe. The improvements in the houſe, and the elegant façade fronting the high road, were deſigned by Adam; the gardens and pleaſure-grounds were laid out by Brown. In the year 1617 was born at Sion-houſe, Dorothy, daughter of Sir Robert Sidney, afterwards earl of Leiceſter, and the daughter of the earl of Northumberland; a lady afterwards rendered more illuſtrious as the celebrated Sachariſſa of Waller, than by her high deſcent. She was married to the earl of Sunderland, and after the death of her huſband reſided in Iſleworth.

In this pariſh alſo was born in 1676, Anthony Collins, the intimate friend of Locke, and author of a valuable work on liberty and neceſſity; but better known as the writer of a diſcourſe on free-thinking, and ſome other publications on ſimilar ſubjects.

The preſent duke of Marlborough and earl of Shrewſbury have each a houſe in this pariſh. That belonging to the former is called Sion-hill, and was built by the late earl of Holderneſs, to which the duke has added a well-furniſhed obſervatory.

The barons' army, headed by Simon de Montford, in the year 1263, encamped in Iſleworth-park. The following year, the palace of the king of the Romans in this pariſh was burnt by a tumultuary army of the citizens of London; for which outrage they were afterwards obliged to pay 1000 marks by way of compenſation.

On the 4th of Auguſt 1647, general Fairfax appointed his head-quarters at

Iſleworth, where he received the parliamentary commiſſioners, ſent for the purpoſe of ſecuring the parliament from force and violence, and healing the diſſenſions between the city and army.

HESTON.

THIS pariſh is about ten miles and a half in circumference, and contains nearly 2500 acres, of which number nearly one half are arable, 686 acres are common, and the remainder paſture and wood. The ſoil for the moſt part is a ſtrong loam, and celebrated for producing wheat of an excellent quality: the bread for the royal houſehold, previouſly to, and during, the reign of Elizabeth, was made of Heſton wheat.

The population of this pariſh, according to an accurate enumeration made in the month of July 1794, by Sir Joſeph Banks, was 1632 inhabitants, of which 151 were lodgers; of the reſident inhabitants 745 were grown perſons (368 males, and 377 females), and 736 children (351 males, 385 females); excluſive of 410 ſoldiers in Hounſlow barracks, and 36 quartered in the Heſton part of Hounſlow village. The total number of houſes, beſides the workhouſe, was 280: of which 17 were gentlemen's houſes, 20 farm-houſes, 18 public houſes, and 225 ſhops and cottages.

The pariſh church is a Gothic ſtructure, built chiefly of flints, with a handſome ſquare ſtone tower at the weſt end. Hounſlow chapel, ſituated alſo in this pariſh, is the only remaining part of an ancient priory built about the middle of the thirteenth century, and occupied by the brethren of the Holy Trinity.

The private edifices worthy of notice are Hounſlow manor-houſe, the property of the Bulſtrode family; and Oſterly-houſe, built by Sir Thomas Greſham, who received here a viſit from queen Elizabeth. This manſion, after having been the reſidence of lord chief juſtice Coke, and Sir William Waller, the celebrated parliamentarian general; at length, about the beginning of this century, came into the poſſeſſion of Sir Francis Child, an eminent London merchant. It was rebuilt and furniſhed with great magnificence by the late Robert Child, Eſq. and his predeceſſor; and is now the property of lady Sarah Child, daughter of the earl of Weſtmoreland, and grand-daughter of Robert Child, Eſq.

The houſe is ſituated in the centre of a finely-wooded park, about ſix miles in circum-

circumference. There are two large ſheets of water, with an elegant ſtone bridge. A menagerie at this ſeat is famous for its collection of curious and beautiful foreign birds.

The town of Hounſlow is ſituated on the great weſtern road, partly in the pariſh of Heſton, and partly in that of Iſleworth. It had formerly a market and fair, granted to its proprietors, the brethren of the Holy Trinity. The market is diſcontinued; but it ſtill enjoys a fair, held on Trinity Monday. The place is chiefly ſupported by its great thoroughfare, which gives ſubſiſtence to a number of public houſes.

Hounſlow-heath, a conſiderable part of which lies in Heſton pariſh, is an extenſive open tract, containing 4293 acres, infamous a few years ago for the many robberies committed on the great roads by which it is croſſed, and noted in earlier times as a place of rendezvous for the military force of the country. In 1267, the earl of Glouceſter, at the head of the London inſurgents, encamped here, intending to give battle to the king; however, on the approach of the royal army, he retreated. During the civil wars, king Charles's army was entrenched here the day after the battle of Brentford, in 1642. On the 23d of November, the ſame year, it ſerved as a place of muſter to the army under the earl of Eſſex: and on the 3d of Auguſt 1647, there was a grand review of Fairfax's army, amounting to 20,000 men; on which occaſion were preſent the ſpeakers of both houſes of parliament, and about one hundred members of the Commons. James II. alſo, in the year 1686, encamped his army on Hounſlow-heath; where it continued till the revolution. Extenſive barracks have lately been built on that part of the heath which is in Heſton pariſh. The average value of the heath, if incloſed, is eſtimated at twenty ſhillings per acre.

On a ſtream communicating with the river Coln, are erected upon the heath large gunpowder and oil mills. The former have within a few years undergone ſeveral accidents by exploſions; but the miſchief on theſe occaſions being only partial, they are ſuppoſed to be very lucrative to the proprietor. The oil-mills are accounted ſome of the moſt capital in England. They are confined to the making of linſeed oil.

Elthorne Hundred.

GREENFORD MAGNA,

SO called from a ford over the Brent which runs through this pariſh, contains about 2000 acres beſides roads; of theſe about 1250 are incloſed, 580 are in common fields, 96 incloſed woodlands, and about 65 waſte. The proportion of graſs land to arable is as three to one; the ſoil a ſtiff clay.

The number of houſes is 69, giving a population of about 310. The pariſh church, dedicated to the Holy Croſs, is a ſmall ſtructure built chiefly of flints, with a low wooden ſpire at the weſt end.

GREENFORD PARVA.

THIS pariſh, more uſually known by the name of Perivale, contains about 700 acres, of which one-third is arable; the ſoil is chiefly clay, with a ſmall mixture of gravel.

The number of houſes is 5, giving a population of about 24.

The church is a ſmall ancient ſtructure, built of ſtone and flints, with a wooden tower and low turret at the weſt end.

HANWELL.

THIS pariſh contains about 1200 acres, 120 of which are waſte; the remainder is nearly equally divided between arable and paſture. The ſoil is clay.

The river Brent divides the pariſh, and the new Grand Junction canal forms its weſtern boundary.

The number of houſes is 107, giving a population of about 481.

The church is a ſmall neat brick ſtructure, of an oblong figure, terminated at the weſt end with a turret and cupola: it was rebuilt in the year 1782.

In this church-yard, September 13, 1786, was buried Jonas Hanway; whoſe life was a continued ſcene of active benevolence. Many uſeful inſtitutions owe their being to his exertions, particularly the charity of the Marine Society. His numerous tracts, though directed to different objects, were the ſame in their great end, the promotion of virtue and happineſs: beſides theſe he publiſhed a curious

and

and intereſting account of his travels through Ruſſia and Perſia. His moſt valuable and well-merited title, however, is that of the *Poor Man's Friend.*

NORTHALL.

THE extent of this pariſh, according to a ſurvey in the year 1670, is 1911 acres; about a third of which are arable, the remainder meadow. The ſoil is a deep clay.

On account of the badneſs of the roads, notwithſtanding the expenſes annually beſtowed on repairs; and the total want of ſpring water before the year 1791 (when a well was ſunk by archdeacon Eaton, the vicar); this pariſh has been deſerted by the proprietors, and left wholly to the cultivators of the land.

The number of houſes is 60, giving a population of about 270.

The pariſh church is a ſmall Gothic ſtructure built of flints, with a wooden tower at the weſt end.

In February 1782 was buried here Dr. Demainbray, of French extraction: he learnt the rudiments of mathematics and natural philoſophy from Deſaguliers; and afterwards read lectures on experimental philoſophy at Edinburgh, Dublin, ſeveral of the French univerſities, and London. In 1768 he was appointed king's aſtronomer at Richmond, which place he held till his death. He was the firſt who obſerved the effects of electricity in quickening the growth of plants.

BRENTFORD.

THE town of Brentford is ſituated on the Thames bank, at the mouth of the little river Brent. The pariſh is very ſmall, containing only about 200 acres, of which 25 are arable. The ſoil is clay, gravel, and loam.

The number of houſes in the pariſh is 270, giving a population of about 1215 perſons. The whole diſtrict of *Old Brentford*, compriſing the greater part of the town, is in the pariſh of Ealing.

At this place the elections for Middleſex are held; on which account it is conſidered as the county town, though deſtitute of a hall or other building for the tranſaction of public buſineſs. The huſtings are erected at a place called the Butts.

The chapel of Brentford is an appendage to the church of Hanwell, the rector of

of which has the appointment of a curate here; which office was once filled by the celebrated John Horne Tooke, ſince become ſo conſpicuous in the political world, as a ſtrenuous oppoſer of the court party; and in literature, as a writer on philoſophical grammar.

In the year 1016 the Danes were totally defeated at this place with great ſlaughter, by Edmund Ironſide: and on the 12th November 1642, Brentford was again made the ſcene of action, in an engagement between the royal army and the troops of the parliament: the king's forces ſucceeded in driving their adverſaries from the town, and made ſeveral priſoners; but the next day, on the arrival of a reinforcement from London, retired to Kingſton. Patrick Ruthven, earl of Forth, had the chief command of the royaliſts in this action, and for his good conduct in the battle was created earl of Brentford.

The manufactures in this pariſh are ſome turpentine works, and a conſiderable ſtarch-houſe. There is alſo ſome malt made, and a large malt diſtillery. The latter was erected by Mr. Percival Hart, who was obliged to build the wall of an uncommon height, in order to prevent the mill-ſails from frightening the horſes that paſſed on the road—a precaution which is wanted in many other places!

In the preſent year, 1797, the Grand Junction Canal Company completed their canal into the river Brent, and thence into the Thames.

UXBRIDGE,

ONE of the market-towns of Middleſex, is ſituated on the river Coln, which ſeparates it from Buckinghamſhire, and is about fifteen miles diſtant from the metropolis. It is a hamlet under the pariſh of Hillingdon, and is governed by two bailiffs. The town conſiſts of one principal ſtreet, and a few houſes lately built below the church. It is provided with a handſome and ſpacious new market-houſe, erected on Ionic columns, with a fine turret clock and bell. The large room over it is a repoſitory for corn, of which commodity a great quantity is ſold in this market. The market-day is Thurſday, and a good deal of buſineſs is done at it in ſupplying a populous neighbourhood with neceſſaries. The town is provided with ſeveral good ſhops and public houſes. The ſtreams from the Coln are employed to turn a number of large flour-mills, which produce what may be called the ſtaple commodity of the place. Some malt is alſo made here; and there are conſiderable

works for the manufacturing of white rope, twine and packthread. The Grand Junction canal, which paſſes cloſe to the weſt end of the town, affords it the convenience of water-carriage. There is a brick bridge of five arches over the Coln, and the town is ſupplied with its water from this river by means of carts. The pump-water is not drinkable. The church or chapel is an ancient ſtructure built in the reign of Henry VI. The church-yard, given by an earl of Derby in 1576, is at ſome diſtance from it. Uxbridge is noted for the fine trout and other fiſh of its river, and for the goodneſs of its bread, particularly rolls. It was the place where a treaty was carried on between king Charles I. and the parliament during the civil wars. It gives the title of earl to the family of Paget.

HILLINGDON

IS a village conſiſting of a few ſcattered houſes. It has a venerable ancient church, in the yard of which ſtands a remarkable yew-tree, reckoned to be 200 years old, and protected by a paling round it. The ſalubrity of this pariſh is atteſted by the tomb-ſtones in the church-yard. Between Hillingdon and Uxbridge are the fine ſeat and park of the marchioneſs of Rockingham. Mr. Hemings has a ſeat cloſe to Hillingdon; and there are ſeveral pleaſant villas in the neighbourhood.

Spelthorne Hundred.

TEDDINGTON,

ANCIENTLY *Todynton* and *Totyngton*, is a pleaſant village on the Thames, beyond Twickenham, about twelve miles from London. The pariſh contains about 500 acres of arable, and 50 of paſture, beſides common: the ſoil ſandy and light. The manor of Teddington formerly belonged to Weſtminſter-abbey, but at the diſſolution was leaſed out by the crown. It is now in the poſſeſſion of George Peters, Eſq. The manor-houſe appears to have been erected by the celebrated lord Buckhurſt, in 1602. Several perſons of eminence have reſided at different times in this village—the earl of Leiceſter, in 1570; William Penn, the quaker, in 1688; Sir Orlando Bridgman; and that excellent philoſopher and divine, Dr. Stephen Hales, who was miniſter here fifty-one years, and refuſed to quit his retreat,

retreat, employed in a ſeries of uſeful purſuits, for any higher preferment. His *vegetable ſtatics* have perpetuated his name as an experimental philoſopher, and his diſcovery and introduction of the ventilator as an ingenious and philanthropical mechaniſt. Dr. Coſens, his ſucceſſor, was diſtinguiſhed as a poet. The pariſh church is a ſmall brick ſtructure, built at different periods. Dr. Hales added the north aiſle, and rebuilt the tower. The moſt remarkable monuments are thoſe of Sir Orlando Bridgman, of Mrs. Woffington the actreſs, of Dr. Hales, and of Flitcroft the architect. The living is a curacy, in the patronage of the lord of the manor, and the Bridgman family.

Robert Udney, Eſq. has a ſeat in this pariſh, containing a valuable collection of pictures, chiefly of the old Italian maſters. The number of houſes in Teddington is 118: of inhabitants, about 580. The population has been gradually increaſing. The people are chiefly engaged in huſbandry.

HAMPTON.

THIS is one of the pleaſant villages on the Thames, decorated with a good church, and conſiſting of a group of houſes, chiefly the reſidence of perſons in humble life. It is much frequented in ſummer for the recreation of angling. Its principal ornament is the elegant villa of the late Roſcius of the Engliſh ſtage, David Garrick, Eſq. who adorned it with all the taſte which diſtinguiſhed his character, and teſtified his veneration for the memory of our great dramatic poet Shakeſpeare, by erecting a temple containing his ſtatue—a beautiful object from the river.

Hampton-court, in its neighbourhood, is well known as the ſite of one of the moſt magnificent palaces belonging to the Engliſh crown, and, together with its gardens and park, filling up a large bend of the river between Hampton and Teddington. This ſtructure was begun by the ambitious and ſplendid miniſter, cardinal Wolſey, in 1514. He rendered it ſo ſtately, that it could not with ſafety, in the tyrannical reign of Henry VIII. be inhabited by a ſubject; whence he preſented it to his lordly maſter, who made it one of his favourite reſidences. It was for a time the priſon of Charles I., and went to decay under his ſucceſſors, till William III. raiſed it to new grandeur. He employed Sir Chriſtopher Wren to convert it into a modern palace, which he effected ſo as to give it more of the appearance of a man-

ſion of royalty than any other of the king's houſes, Windſor excepted. Its front towards the garden is 330 feet in extent; and that to the river is but a few feet ſhorter. The apartments are numerous, and were fitted up with great ſplendour, according to the taſte of the time when they were occupied by the royal family, which is now long elapſed. It has lately, indeed, afforded a hoſpitable reſidence to the kindred branch of the houſe of Orange, expelled from Holland by inteſtine troubles. Of the ancient building, little more remains than the ſtately Gothic hall, which was fitted up as a theatre by queen Caroline, but only a few times uſed. The gardens of Hampton-court remain under the ſame formal diſpoſition that was given them by the taſte of king William. The park, called Buſhy-park, is extenſive, and contains a fine grove of horſe-cheſnuts extending from ſide to ſide. It is well ſtocked with finely-flavoured deer and other game. The houſe of the ranger (now the duke of Clarence) is ſpacious, and forms a handſome ſquare. There is a wooden bridge acroſs the Thames leading from the palace to Eaſt Moulſey.

SUNBURY.

PROCEEDING up the river, the fine village of Sunbury next appears, inhabited by a number of perſons of fortune, on whoſe employment the lower claſs depend. A long range of elegant houſes and grounds decorate the banks of the Thames; and the handſome tower of the church adds dignity to the ſcene. Near Sunbury is the ſeat and extenſive park of Sir Thomas Muſgrave, called Kenton-park. A wide common ſtretches from hence to Aſhford, croſſed by the high road to Stains. On the Sunbury ſide of this common are ſeveral agreeable reſidences.

SHEPPERTON.

ABOUT three miles further, the village of Shepperton enlivens the bank of the Thames. It forms an agreeable group of houſes of the humbler kind, intermixed with trees, together with an ancient church of ſuitable appearance. An encloſed piece of ground in this pariſh, called *War-cloſe*, by its name, and the bones and ſpurs which have been found in it, is indicated to have been a field of battle; and at a ſmall diſtance is the ſite of a Roman camp. A ſmall hamlet called *Hawford*, between Shepperton and Walton-bridge, affords a beautiful river ſituation, by its command

command of two reaches made by the ſtream. The oppoſite grounds of Oatlands form a delightful proſpect from the Middleſex ſhore in theſe parts. *Shepperton-green*, about a mile northwards, has an aſſemblage of buildings extending to *Littleton*. Near this place is a ſeat and park belonging to Mr. Wood.

LALEHAM

IS the next village on the river bank; which, however, can boaſt none of the decorations ſo profuſely beſtowed on many others. It is a ſmall mean place, with a half-ruined church, and is only rendered agreeable by a few tolerable houſes on the water-ſide. Anglers are its chief ſummer viſitants.

STAINS, *or* STANES.

THIS market-town is ſituated on the extremity of the county, about ſeventeen miles weſt from London, near the junction of Middleſex, Surry, and Buckinghamſhire. It is ſaid to take its name from the boundary ſtone of the juriſdiction of London, which is placed near it. Stains is a market-town of moderate ſize and buſineſs, participating in the corn, flour, and malt trade. Its market is on Friday. A good brick building has lately been erected for a market-houſe. The town is governed by two conſtables and four headboroughs. Its ſituation on the great weſt road affords ſupport to a number of inns; one of which, on the river, near the bridge, is furniſhed with very pleaſant walks and gardens. The bridge is a handſome ſtone ſtructure of three arches, lately erected in place of the former wooden one. The river in this part is thickly planted on its banks and iſlands with oziers for the uſe of the baſket-makers—the reſort of multitudes of the ſwallow tribe in ſummer and autumn. The pariſh church is large and ancient, ſituated at ſome diſtance from the town. This part of the county ſtretching in an unintereſting and rather ſterile flat to Hounſlow and down to the Thames, was anciently the foreſt or warren of Stains, but diſforeſted by Henry III.

SURRY.

BRIXTON HUNDRED.

ROTHERHITHE.

THIS place, commonly called Redriffe, is one of the chief ſuburbs of the metropolis on the ſouth-eaſtern ſide; and is connected to the Borough by a continued line of buildings. The land in this pariſh that is not occupied by houſes is about 470 acres; of which forty are employed by market gardeners, and the remainder is principally laid down for paſture: the ſoil is a rich marſh, for the moſt part well drained; on which account, and the flux and reflux of the tide in the common ſewers, few ſituations near London are reckoned more healthy.

The ſituation of this pariſh on the bank of the Thames, naturally draws the chief of the capital and induſtry of its inhabitants towards employments immediately connected with maritime affairs; and accordingly, the whole extent of the river-ſide is occupied by eleven dock-yards, at which are built Eaſt India ſhips, and ſmaller merchantmen; and numerous warehouſes belonging to tradeſmen and artificers, who ſend large ſupplies of rigging and proviſion to the navy.

During the laſt hundred years this pariſh has conſiderably more than doubled its numbers, and it ſtill experiences a rapid increaſe. The preſent number of houſes is eſtimated at about 1600, giving a population of nearly 8800.

The pariſh church is a brick building, with a handſome ſtone ſpire at the weſt end, erected in the year 1715. In the church-yard was buried on the 29th of December 1784, in the 21ſt year of his age, prince Lee Boo, ſon of Abba Thulle, king of one of the Pelew Iſlands; well known to the world by Mr. Keate's elegant and intereſting narrative of the generous treatment experienced by the crew of the Antelope, which in Auguſt 1783 was wrecked off that iſland. The young prince accompanied captain Wilſon to England, and ſoon after his arrival was carried off by the ſmall-pox; the Eaſt India company, to whom the Antelope belonged, erected a monument over his grave, in grateful remembrance of his father's kindneſs. The living is a rectory in the patronage of Clare-hall, Cambridge. There is a free-ſchool in the pariſh for the education of ſeamen's children.

LAMBETH.

THE pariſh of Lambeth is ſituated on the ſide of the Thames, and oppoſite to Weſtminſter. It is about ſixteen miles in circumference, and contains 2942 acres; of theſe the greater part are arable; the paſture and meadow land is the next in quantity; the market gardeners and nurſery-men occupy about 300 acres; the ſame number are waſte, and thirteen are taken up with oſier plantations.

The ſoil conſiſts for the moſt part of gravel; and ſand and near the borders of Croydon pariſh a well has lately been ſunk to the depth of 300 feet in an unvarying ſtratum of argillaceous earth.

The building of Weſtminſter-bridge has greatly contributed to the rapid increaſe of population in this pariſh. At the beginning of the preſent century, the number of houſes was 1400: in 1778, according to actual enumeration, they had increaſed to 2270: in October 1788, they amounted to 3759; and at Michaelmas 1791, to 4030; giving a population of 24,780. Ever ſince the commencement of the pariſh regiſter in the year 1539, the burials have uniformly exceeded the baptiſms; of late years, however, the proportion has been conſiderably diminiſhing.

The chief trade of Lambeth conſiſts in the importation of deal, and other foreign timber, for the conſumption of the capital and ſuburbs: almoſt the whole bank of the river, belonging to this pariſh, is occupied by timber wharfs, containing vaſt ſtores, and the ſources of prodigious wealth to the inhabitants. Beſides this inlet to wealth and population, there are ſeveral conſiderable manufactories, particularly ſome large diſtilleries and potteries at Vauxhall, Meſſrs. Beaufoy's extenſive vinegar works; Mrs. Coade's manufactory of artificial ſtone, which is caſt in moulds and burnt, and is applied to many parts of ornamental architecture with ſucceſs, being cheaper than carved work, and having been found to bear the froſt and wet without ſuſtaining any injury. On the river ſide is a high tower for the purpoſe of making patent ſhot, the excellence of which conſiſts in its being more ſpherical than common ſhot: the exactneſs of ſhape is produced by cauſing the melted metal to fall 123 feet through the air before it reaches the water, whereas in the common manufactories the metal ſcarcely falls a yard before reaching the water, in conſequence of which the globules being yet ſoft are very apt to be injured in their form. A manufactory has alſo been eſtabliſhed by Meſſrs. Boulton, Morgan, and Co. under the title of the Woollen Yarn Company, in which every part of the clothing proceſs

ceſs is carried on by machinery; they confine themſelves to the making of coarſe cloths for the ſupply of America and the Weſt Indies, and employ about 500 people, 200 of which are children*.

In the pariſh of Lambeth, near the river, is ſituated the palace of the archbiſhops of Canterbury, a very large irregular pile, exhibiting the architecture of different ages from the 13th century to the preſent time. The palace is furniſhed with a valuable library of books, founded by archbiſhop Bancroft, and increaſed by his ſucceſſors, eſpecially Sheldon, Tenniſon, and Secker. Adjoining to this is the manuſcript library, containing the regiſters of the ſee of Canterbury, and the collections of archbiſhop Tenniſon, Henry Wharton, and S. Carew earl of Totneſs. The different rooms and galleries alſo contain an intereſting collection of portraits of Engliſh clergy and other diſtinguiſhed perſons.

Previous to the Reformation, the great tower, called the Lollards' tower, was a place of confinement for eccleſiaſtical offenders: it ſtill contains a ſmall room called the priſon, wainſcotted with thick oaken boards, and furniſhed with ſeveral large iron rings fixed in the wall, for the purpoſe of ſecuring the priſoners. Queen Elizabeth alſo uſed frequently to commit ſtate priſoners to the cuſtody of the archbiſhop, particularly the popiſh biſhops Tunſtall and Thirlby, the earls of Eſſex and Southampton, lords Stourton and Henry Howard, brother of the duke of Norfolk.

Hubert Walter, who was here in 1198, is the firſt archbiſhop of Canterbury, who is known to have reſided here, though many metropolitan decrees before this period are dated at Lambeth.

This palace has ſeveral times experienced the weight of popular fury, eſpecially in Wat Tyler's rebellion, when the Eſſex mob committed great devaſtations on the furniture, library, and regiſters, and put to death archbiſhop Sudbury. When Laud reſided here, at the beginning of the civil commotions between the king and parliament, the palace was attacked by the London apprentices, who were, however, repulſed without doing much miſchief. A ſhort time after it was converted by the Commons into a fortreſs and ſtate priſon. The laſt outrage that threatened it, was during the riots of 1780; by the timely arrival, however, of the ſoldiers it eſcaped any injury.

The park and gardens contain about thirteen acres, and have been laid out with

* This work has ſince been diſcontinued.

much

much taſte by the preſent archbiſhop. Againſt the palace wall are two white fig-trees of an extraordinary ſize, and producing very fine fruit, ſaid to have been planted by cardinal Pole.

Adjoining to the palace is the pariſh church, which is built of flints mixed with ſtone and brick; it contains the monuments of ſeveral individuals of the noble family of Howard; of ſome of the archbiſhops; of Elias Aſhmole, the celebrated antiquary; and John Tradeſcant, an inhabitant of this pariſh, and one of the firſt perſons in the kingdom who eſtabliſhed a botanical garden: he viſited a great part of Europe and Africa in ſearch of new plants; and Linnæus has expreſſed his ſenſe of the ſervices rendered by him to the ſcience of botany, by calling a genus of plants after his name (*Tradeſcantia*). Beſides his collection of plants, he formed a muſæum of other rarities and natural curioſities, of which in the year 1656 his ſon publiſhed a catalogue. John Tradeſcant the younger left his collections to Elias Aſhmole, by whom they were preſented to the univerſity of Oxford. Ambroſe Phillips, author of paſtorals, odes, and ſeveral ſmall poetical pieces, died at his houſe near Vauxhall in this pariſh in 1749.

Several places of public amuſement have at various times exiſted in this pariſh. About the beginning of the century a houſe of this kind was opened in Lambeth-walk, called Lambeth-wells; the avowed reaſon of which was on account of a ſpring of mineral water that was ſold here. Monthly concerts were alſo performed, and lectures read in natural and experimental philoſophy. The Wells at length becoming a public nuiſance, the premiſes were let to a methodiſt preacher.

Theſe were ſucceeded about the middle of the century by Cuper's-gardens, having formerly belonged to the earl of Arundel; and being afterwards opened to the public, and rented by one Cuper, who had been his gardener: they were for ſome time eſteemed a very faſhionable place of reſort, being occaſionally viſited by the prince and princeſs of Wales. The entertainments were fireworks, illuminations, and muſic, eſpecially ſome admirable performances on the harp by one Jones. The gardens were ſhut up in 1753.

On the decline of Cuper's, the Spring-gardens of Vauxhall roſe into notice; being at firſt leaſed and afterwards purchaſed of George Doddington, Eſq. by Jonathan Tyers, in whoſe repreſentatives they are ſtill veſted. Vauxhall is much frequented during the ſummer ſeaſon by faſhionable parties, and is celebrated for the excellence of its concert: indeed on a fine evening the crowds of well-dreſſed

company that fill its illuminated walks and magnificent ſaloons, evince the ſtrength and efficacy of its claim to the public ſupport.

Aſtley's amphitheatre for the exhibition of feats of horſemanſhip, muſical interludes, rope-dancing, &c. was eſtabliſhed in this pariſh in the year 1768: it was at firſt an open circus, but is at preſent fitted up with the conveniencies of the regular theatres.

Two uſeful public charities are alſo ſituated in Lambeth: the Aſylum for the reception of female orphans, inſtituted in 1758; and the Weſtminſter Lying-in-hoſpital, founded in 1765.

CAMBERWELL.

THIS pariſh is of conſiderable extent, and is divided in nearly an equal proportion between arable, paſture, and garden-ground. The ſoil is in general fertile, and its neighbourhood to the metropolis renders the ſupply of manure plentiful and upon eaſy terms. The number of houſes, including the hamlets of Peckham and Dulwich, is about 770, giving a population of nearly 4000.

The pariſh church was erected about the year 1520, and is built of flints and rough ſtone, with a ſmall embattled tower at the weſt end. It has ſome rude painted windows, conſiſting of portraits and arms, and principally relating to the Muſchamp family. Within the church are monuments of the Skynners, Scotts, and Bowyers, with many others. The living is a vicarage, in the gift of Joſeph Windham, Eſq. There is a newly-erected chapel of eaſe in Camberwell.

This village is adorned with a great number of elegant houſes of late date, the reſidence of opulent merchants, &c. A favourite ſituation is Denmark-hill, an eminence on the high road to Dulwich. Further on is a terrace affording a beautiful view of the Surry hills. It is connected with a long grove of trees, proceeding from the village near the pleaſant tavern and bowling-green called the Grove-houſe. On the ſide of this grove are the extenſive pleaſure-grounds and gardens of Dr. Lettſom, enriched with a great variety of exotic plants, and containing many objects of curioſity. From the higher part of the grounds burſts out a ſpring, adjoining to which is erected a convenient bath. A fiſh-pond firſt receives the water, and tranſmits it to the village, where it is applied to various domeſtic uſes. The annexed ſouth view of London was taken, by Dr. Lettſom's permiſſion, from the paddock near his houſe.

In



E. Dayes del.

W. Knight sculp.

VIEW of LONDON.

from Camberwell.

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In the hamlet of Dulwich is ſituated Dulwich-college. This inſtitution was founded in the year 1613 by Edward Alleyn, one of the moſt eminent actors of his time: as proprietor of the Fortune theatre, and keeper of the royal bear-garden, he gained a conſiderable fortune; the greater part of which he appropriated to the erection of this college: the eſtabliſhment conſiſts of a maſter, warden, and four fellows; twelve ſcholars, and ſix poor aged men, and as many women. The building is compoſed of a front and two wings, forming three ſides of a quadrangle, containing, beſides the neceſſary apartments and offices, a chapel, ſerving as a chapel of eaſe to the pariſh church, and frequented by the inhabitants of the hamlet of Dulwich. The college alſo contains a library and picture-gallery; in the former are ſome ſcarce books and curious manuſcripts; in the latter are portraits of Drayton the poet, Sir Martin Frobiſher, ſeveral of the Lovelaces, and ſome of the chief actors of the laſt century. The ſituation of Dulwich is low, but rural and pleaſant; and it contains ſeveral elegant villas.

At Peckham are two meeting-houſes for the anabaptiſts and preſbyterians; of the latter congregation the celebrated Samuel Chandler was ſome time miniſter. This village is agreeably ſituated, and affords fine proſpects towards Greenwich and Deptford.

BATTERSEA.

THIS pariſh is ſituated by the Thames, about three miles from Weſtminſter-bridge. The greater part of its land is nearly equally divided between arable and paſture; the remainder, conſiſting of almoſt the whole of Wandſworth-common, and a conſiderable ſhare of Clapham-common, is waſte. The market gardeners occupy above 300 acres, and are particularly celebrated for raiſing cabbages and aſparagus. The ſoil is ſandy, and requires a good deal of rain. The manor, which was long in the St. John family, is now poſſeſſed by lord Spencer. The number of houſes is 360, giving a population of about 2160.

A houſe called *York-houſe*, by the water-ſide, was built by Lawrence Booth, archbiſhop of York, as a reſidence for his ſucceſſors when called to London, and, with an eſtate adjoining, was annexed to that ſee. It has long been only occupied by tenants. *Bolingbroke-houſe*, the reſidence of that family, was in great part pulled down in 1763, when the eſtate was alienated; but a few of the rooms remain,

among which is one ſaid to have been a favourite apartment of the moſt diſtinguiſhed perſon of that houſe.

The pariſh church is a modern ſtructure, ſituated on the bank of the Thames: it is built of brick, and has a ſmall ſpire at the weſt end. The principal monuments are thoſe of the ſeveral individuals of the St. John family, particularly a fine one by Roubilliac, to the memory of the celebrated lord Bolingbroke, who was buried here, December 18, 1751. There is alſo a ſingular monument of Sir Edward Wynter, a remarkable character. The living of Batterſea is a vicarage, in the gift of earl Spencer, the lord of the manor. On the ſite of Bolingbroke-houſe was erected, by Mr. Fowler, a few years ago, a horizontal windmill of great powers, and on a new conſtruction, for the purpoſe of expreſſing oil: it is at preſent applied to the grinding of corn, for the uſe of a large diſtillery eſtabliſhed on the ſpot. The great wheel is moved by ninety-ſix vertical float boards, inſtead of four ſails, as in the common windmill.

CLAPHAM.

THE land in this pariſh is eſtimated at 1120 acres, the greater part of which is paſture; the ſoil for the moſt part is light and gravelly.

The number of houſes is 384, that of the inhabitants about 2700, being ſeven to a houſe; an eſtimate which, though high, coincides with an actual enumeration made here in the year 1788.

The village of Clapham is ſituated about four miles ſouth of Weſtminſter-bridge. It is a very favourite country reſidence of ſome of the moſt eminent bankers, merchants, and tradeſmen in London; and in conſequence has been of late years much improved. The common, which ſome years ago was a barren ſwamp, is now converted into a delightful pleaſure-ground, by the ſubſcriptions of the inhabitants, and the ſuperintendance and good taſte of Chriſtopher Baldwin, Eſq., who repaired the roads, and ornamented it with a variety of native and foreign trees, ſo as to give it the air of a park. The value of land has advanced in an equal proportion with the improvement of the pariſh; in proof of which it may be mentioned that no leſs than 5000*l.* has been given for fourteen acres.

The old church ſtood on an eminence near the Kingſton road. The ſouth aiſle of it

it ſtill remains, and is kept up to preſerve ſome coſtly monuments to the memory of Sir Richard Atkins and his family. There is likewiſe a memorial of Dr. Liſter, one of the phyſicians to queen Anne, and well known to naturaliſts by his work on conchology.

The new church, opened in 1776, is a brick building, with a ſmall dome and turret. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of the lord of the manor.

Dr. Brady, the ſame who, in conjunction with Tate, executed a metrical verſion of the Pſalms, was rector of Clapham about the beginning of this century; and was ſucceeded by Anthony Blackwall, the author of ſome popular diſſertations on the ſacred claſſics.

There is a large meeting-houſe belonging to a very opulent congregation of preſbyterian diſſenters.

STREATHAM.

THE land in this pariſh is chiefly arable, with a clayey ſoil. The number of houſes is 265, giving a population of about 1590.

One of the manors in this pariſh belongs to the duke of Bedford, whence he derives the title of Baron Howland of Streatham.

This village, like moſt others round the metropolis, is adorned by villas belonging to the London merchants, and perſons of faſhion: of theſe, one deſerves notice, as having been formerly the reſidence of Henry Thrale, Eſq. in whoſe time it was often graced by the preſence of Dr. Johnſon, Sir Joſhua Reynolds, Edmund Burke, David Garrick, Oliver Goldſmith, and others of the chief literati of the laſt age. It is now the property of Gabriel Piozzi, Eſq. who married Mr. Thrale's widow.

The church has been built at different periods. Its tower, ſupporting a ſmall ſpire, is a conſpicuous object for ſeveral miles around. It contains ſeveral tombs and monuments, of which none deſerve notice ſo much as two tablets with Latin inſcriptions, written by Dr. Johnſon; one to the memory of Mr. Thrale, the other to that of Mrs. Saluſbury, mother to Mrs. Thrale, now Mrs. Piozzi. It may be doubted, however, whether propriety has not been ſacrificed to the oſtentation of learning, in recording the lives and characters of two perſons in their ſituations, in a dead language. The living of Streatham is a rectory, in the patronage of the duke of Bedford. The celebrated Dr. Hoadly, biſhop of Bangor, was preſented to this

this living in the year 1710, by Mrs. Howland, without any previous perſonal acquaintance with him, but from an eſteem of his character and political principles.

There is a mineral cathartic water in this pariſh, diſcovered in 1660, and ſtill held in eſteem, though there are no accommodations on the ſpot for drinking it. Conſiderable quantities of it are ſaid to be ſent to the London hoſpitals.

TOOTING.

THIS village is ſituated on the Epſom road, about ſix miles from Weſtminſter-bridge, and is divided into Upper and Lower.

The greater part of the land in the pariſh is arable; the ſoil, gravel mixed with clay: the number of houſes is 150, giving a population of about 900. There are ſeveral handſome villas, belonging to reſidents in London. Beſides the church, which is a ſmall building with a low circular tower and ſpire, there is a meeting-houſe lately erected for the uſe of the preſbyterian diſſenters. The living is a rectory, under the patronage of the preſent incumbent.

MERTON.

THE ſoil in this pariſh varies from light and ſandy to a ſtiff clay. The land, however, is for the moſt part arable. The number of houſes is 116, giving a population of about 696. In the year 1130 was built here Merton-abbey, an inſtitution of conſiderable note in its time. In this houſe, in the year 1236, a parliament was held, by which were enacted the ſtatutes which take their name from this place. Here alſo was concluded the peace between Henry III. and the dauphin of France; and hither Hubert de Burgh fled for ſanctuary when he fell under the king's diſpleaſure. During the civil wars, Merton-abbey became one of the parliament's garriſons. It has ſince gone ſo faſt to decay, that the only part of the building which remains, is an eaſt window of the chapel. The ſite of the abbey is, however, occupied by two calico-grounds and a copper-mill, which find employment for nearly a thouſand perſons. The pariſh church is a long narrow ſtructure, built of flints. It was erected early in the 12th century by Gilbert Norman, the founder of the abbey, and appears to have undergone no material alteration. It contains monuments of the Robinſons, Stapyltons, and other families. The living is a rectory, belonging to a lay impropriator, who puts in a curate.

WIMBLEDON.

THE whole extent of this pariſh is eſtimated at 2800 acres; of which about 800 are arable, 1000 paſture, 100 meadow, 400 common, and 500 wood. The ſoil is various, conſiſting chiefly of ſand and clay, with black moor earth in the low meadows: the ſprings lie very near the ſurface, and in conſequence much of the land is ſwampy.

The population of the pariſh has much increaſed during the preſent century: the number of houſes is 230, of inhabitants about 1380.

The Wandle, a ſmall ſtream, and one of the numerous tributaries of the Thames, flows through this pariſh, on whoſe banks are ſome conſiderable copper-mills, extenſive calico-printing works, and a manufacture of japan-ware.

Wimbledon-park, the property of lord Spencer, contains about 1200 acres, laid out with great taſte by the celebrated Brown. There is no adequate manſion to this extenſive pleaſure-ground, the manor-houſe having been burnt down in the year 1785; ſome of the offices were, however, preſerved, and have ſince been fitted up ſo as to ſerve for an occaſional retirement to his lordſhip's family.

In the month of Auguſt 1796, a well was ſunk here to the depth of 563 feet. The following account of the ſtrata was communicated by Mr. Hoſſack, the director of the work, by the order of earl Spencer:

The firſt 70 feet were of an ochery red clay, alternating with ſand, and abounding ſo much with land ſprings as to occaſion the neceſſity of ſtopping them out with a circular wall of clay a foot thick; by which means the reſt of the work was executed without any trouble from water.

From 70 to 80—blue ſlaty clay, mixed with pyrites.

From 80 to 100—light ſandy clay, among which was found a large ſtone nearly the width of the well; from which, on being broken, guſhed out nearly a pail-full of clear water.

From 100 to 140—blue ſlaty clay, of various ſhades of colour and degrees of hardneſs.

From 140 to 192—light-coloured ſhivery clay mixed with pyrites.

From 192 to 396—hard blue clay, with various bands of pyritous ſtones: the air became ſo contaminated as to require from this period to the finiſhing of the well, the conſtant employment of one man at an air-pump.

From

From 396 to 425—the earth rather lighter, and abounding with large maſſes of pyrites, and ſmaller fragments interſperſed through the earth.

From 425 to 443—hard and ſlaty clay, with a little water.

443, 444—hard rock.

From 444 to 466—ſlaty clay.

From 466 to 467½—hard rock.

From 467½ to 536—blue ſlaty clay, alternating with ſand, and mixed with pyrites.

From 536 to 542—hard blue clay, with cockle-ſhells, coaly matter, and pyrites.

From 542 to 554—hard blue clay mixed with pebbles.

From 554 to 558—two ſtrata of ſhelly limeſtone.

From 558 to 560—red clay.

After this a hole about 2 feet deep was bored with an auger; and the water, mixed with ſand, roſe ſo rapidly, that in the ſpace of an hour it attained the height of 300 feet, and by degrees aſcended within 114 feet of the ſurface, where it became ſtationary. The depth of the well was diminiſhed 160 feet by the influx of ſand from the bottom; and the water is very clear, white, and ſoft. It may alſo be remarked, that on the ſouth ſide of Wimbledon through Coombe-wood, the ſprings riſe very copiouſly and in great numbers to the ſurface. Near Coombe-farm, the admired cottage reſidence of John Dawes, Eſq. banker, is the conduit erected by cardinal Wolſey, ſtill in perfect repair, which conveys water under the Thames to Hampton-court. Not far from this conduit is the retired and rural ſeat of the Hon. Wilbraham Tollemache, the ancient manor-houſe of Coombe, of which he is the lord.

The ancient manor-houſe, built nearly on the ſame ſite with the manſion-houſe belonging to the park, was the reſidence of various perſons of note, poſſeſſors of the manor; among whom were Sir Chriſtopher Hatton, lord Burleigh (who here entertained queen Elizabeth for three days), Henrietta Maria, queen of Charles I., general Lambert, Digby earl of Briſtol, and Sir Theodore Janſſen. The houſe was pulled down and rebuilt by the dutcheſs of Marlborough, from whom the property came to the Spencer family.

The church is a neat modern ſtructure, with a handſome ſpire covered with copper; containing the tombs of Sir Richard Wynne of Gwedir, Caernarvonſhire; of lord Wimbledon and his family; of John Hopkins, Eſq. commonly known by the



Dayes del.

W. Angus sculp.

VIEW of MOUNT ARRARAT.

The seat of Edward Hasler Esq

the name of Vulture Hopkins; and of Sir Theodore Janſſen, who was deeply engaged in the celebrated South-ſea ſpeculation. The rectory belongs to the dean and chapter of Worceſter. The living is a curacy, under the juriſdiction of the archbiſhop of Canterbury. The neighbourhood of the common is adorned by ſeveral elegant villas, particularly one which lately belonged to Monſ. de Calonne, and is at preſent the property of earl Gower: the Right Hon. Henry Dundas alſo has a houſe in this pariſh. On the ſouth ſide of Wimbledon is Mount Ararat, the retired and beautiful reſidence of Edward Clarke, Eſq. The annexed view exhibits the manſion with the two green-houſes at the extremities; which is ſo contrived, that doors can be opened in every room throughout the building into the green-houſe at each end; which in the ſummer-time has a pleaſing effect, and in the winter affords a warm and extenſive walk, without being expoſed to the weather.

At the ſouth-weſt angle of Wimbledon-common is a circular encampment, with a ſingle ditch, very perfect. Camden ſuppoſes it to have been the ſite of an engagement between Ceaulin king of the Weſt Saxons, and Ethelbert king of Kent, in 568.

WANDSWORTH.

THE land in this pariſh is divided nearly equally between arable and paſture, including, under the former, 218 acres occupied by market gardeners. About 200 acres of Wandſworth-common belong to this pariſh, as alſo a conſiderable part of Putney-heath. The ſoil is for the moſt part a ſandy loam on a bed of gravel.

In the year 1792 the inhabitants were accurately enumerated, and found to amount to 4554: of theſe 843 were lodgers, and 460 ſervants. The number of houſes was 689.

The river Wandle flows through and gives its name to the village: on its banks are eſtabliſhed many conſiderable manufactories; particularly hat-making, which was introduced here by ſome French proteſtant families who quitted their native country in the reign of Louis XIV.: there are alſo two dye-houſes here, one of which is principally employed in dying ſcarlet. The other manufactories are, one for bolting-cloth, another for printing kerſeymeres, a third for whitening and preſſing ſtuffs, two for calico-printing; beſides mills for the preparation of iron, of white lead, and linſeed oil; vinegar works and diſtilleries; the whole finding employment for between five and ſix hundred hands.

The church is a brick edifice, the greater part of which was rebuilt in 1780. It

has an ancient ſquare tower. Among its monuments the moſt conſiderable are that of Sir Thomas Brodrick and his lady, Henry Smith, Eſq., Robert Knareſborough, Samuel Palmer, Eſq. ſurgeon, and Edward Barker, baron of the exchequer. There is a cemetery belonging to this pariſh about half a mile from the church, on the London road. The living is a vicarage, under private patronage. There is a conſiderable quakers' meeting at Wandſworth.

The hills on each ſide of the river Wandle are well known for the pleaſing views that they offer of the Thames, the metropolis, and great part of the county of Middleſex. The villa of Anthony Rucker, Eſq. is a conſpicuous ornament to the neighbourhood.

In this pariſh is the hamlet of Garrett; noted for a mock election that takes place here on the meeting of a new parliament; this cuſtom has given riſe to the plot of Foote's amuſing comedy of the Mayor of Garrett.

PUTNEY.

OF this pariſh a very large proportion is waſte; the reſt is for the moſt part arable, including about 150 acres occupied by nurſery-men and market gardeners. The ſoil is chiefly ſand and gravel, with ſome clay.

In the year 1792 an enumeration was made of the houſes and of the inhabitants; of the former, there were 440; of the latter, 2294; of whom 274 were lodgers.

A large and handſome wooden bridge was erected in the year 1729 over the Thames, between Putney and the oppoſite village of Fulham. The work was executed at the expenſe of thirty ſubſcribers, who advanced 740*l.* each: the annual income of the bridge, ariſing from its tolls, is ſuppoſed to be nearly 3000*l.* The laſt ſhare that was put up to ſale was bought for thirteen hundred guineas.

The church is a ſmall irregular building, erected in the 13th century; but ſince that time has undergone ſeveral alterations, of which the chief is the addition of a ſmall ornamented chapel, built by Nicholas Weſt, biſhop of Ely, who was the ſon of a baker in this place. In this church, during the civil wars, and a ſhort time before king Charles made his eſcape from Hampton-court to the Iſle of Wight, Cromwell, Fairfax, Ireton, and the other chief officers of the army, uſed to hold their conſultations; and ſeveral threatening declarations from the ſoldiers to the parliament were here reſolved upon. There are many ancient monuments in the church,

church, among which may be mentioned thoſe of Mary Knivet, the Palmer family, the Welbeck family, and Sir W. Becher.

In the church-yard are the tombs of John Toland, the celebrated deiſtical writer; and of Robert Wood, the author of two ſplendid and valuable publications on the ruins of Tadmor and Palmyra. The living is a curacy, in the peculiar juriſdiction of the archbiſhop of Canterbury.

Beſides biſhop Weſt, this village gave birth to Thomas Cromwell, earl of Eſſex: he was the ſon of a blackſmith, the *elêve*, and afterwards the ſucceſſor of the great Wolſey: by his abilities he roſe to the firſt offices of the ſtate; and as he equalled Wolſey in his elevation, ſo he was ruined by the caprice of the ſame tyrant who deſtroyed his patron. A man ſtill ſuperior in genius, though not equal in fortune, the celebrated hiſtorian Edward Gibbon, was a native of Putney.

One of the public charities of this place is peculiarly accommodated to its ſituation—a ſchool for the education and maintenance of twenty watermen's ſons, founded by Thomas Martyn, at the latter end of the laſt century. The ſurplus of the eſtates left for this purpoſe is devoted to donations to watermen who have loſt a limb in the ſervice of their country.

On the brow of the heath, and in the hamlet of Roehampton, are elegant villas, belonging to lady Grantham, lord Huntingfield, lord Dover, and the earl of Beſborough: the latter contains a valuable collection of pictures and antiques. The proſpects from various parts of the heath are extremely beautiful. A detached houſe upon it commemorates an experiment made in 1776, to prove the efficacy of a method of preſerving houſes from fire, by means of painted iron plates interpoſed between the ceilings and floors of the ſeveral ſtories, invented by David Hartley, Eſq. Near this building is an obeliſk erected at the expenſe of the city of London, and on the anniverſary of the great fire, to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Hartley's invention, at the ſame time recording the municipal privileges conferred on him by the Goldſmiths' company, and the grant of 2500*l.* by the Houſe of Commons.

In Roehampton is a private chapel, the property of the Rev. C. Carr, built in 1777, inſtead of one formerly in the earl of Portland's houſe. That houſe was long inhabited by Chriſtian counteſs of Devonſhire, a celebrated lady, and a zealous royaliſt in the times of the Commonwealth. Her ſon William earl of Devonſhire reſided in it, and entertained there the famous philoſopher Hobbes, who had been his tutor.

BARNES.

THIS pariſh contains 900 acres, of which about 150 are common, being for the moſt part a barren gravel; 600 acres are arable, including the ground occupied by the market gardeners; and the remaining 150 acres are parcelled out into very rich meadows on the Thames bank.

The number of houſes in Barnes is 150, giving a population of about 600.

Sir Francis Walſingham occupied the manor-houſe of Barnes, or Barn-elms, at which, in the year 1589, he entertained queen Elizabeth and her whole court. The houſe was moderniſed by Sir Richard Hoare, whoſe widow now inhabits it. The poet Cowley reſided in this village a ſhort time previous to his death.

The church of Barnes is a very ancient ſtructure, built of ſtone and flint, with a ſquare tower of later conſtruction. It contains monuments of Sir Thomas Powel and Sir Richard Hoare. Edward Roſe, citizen of London, who died in 1653, has perpetuated his name by a bequeſt for the planting and preſervation of roſe-trees in an encloſure near his tomb. The living is a rectory, under the patronage of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's. Hezekiah Burton, and Francis Hare, afterwards biſhop of Chicheſter, were rectors of Barnes. An extraordinary enthuſiaſt in the laſt century, Abſezer Coppe, reſided here as a phyſician and occaſional nonconformiſt preacher.

On that part of the pariſh which overlooks the Thames, ſeveral villas and lodging-houſes have been built of late years, which during the hot weather are ſo much frequented as to give it the air of a public watering-place.

MORTLAKE.

THE extent of this pariſh is about 1400 acres, 650 of which are now encloſed in Richmond-park. The land is for the moſt part arable, including above 250 acres of garden ground. The cultivation of *aſparagus* is carried on here very largely, not fewer than 60 acres being appropriated to this ſingle vegetable. One of the completeſt farms in this pariſh is a ſmall one of 80 acres, in the occupation of the king. The ſoil of Mortlake is chiefly ſand and gravel, with ſome heavy clay in the meadows on the river bank.

The manor of this place long belonged to the ſee of Canterbury, and the manor-houſe

houſe was the occaſional reſidence of many of the archbiſhops. It was alienated to the crown by Cranmer, and the manſion was pulled down. Nothing of it now remains but the foundation of a wall. The church of Mortlake was firſt built in the 14th century, and rebuilt in the 16th. It has had many modern repairs. Its tower is ſquare and embattled. There is a font with rich Gothic tracery given by archbiſhop Bourchier. The monuments in the church offer nothing remarkable. In the church-yard are the tombs of alderman Barber, and Partridge the aſtrologer. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Worceſter. Among the more eminent reſidents at Mortlake were Sir John Temple, John Partridge, alderman Barber, the benevolent Edward Colſton, and the celebrated Dr. John Dee.

The number of houſes is 301; that of the inhabitants, according to actual enumeration in the month of June 1792, was 1766, of whom 339 were lodgers.

The only manufactory in this pariſh is one of delf and earthen-ware, eſtabliſhed here about fifty-five years ago.

The hamlet of Eaſt Sheen, ſituated near Richmond-park, on a riſing ground overlooking the river, contains many elegant villas.

Croydon Hundred.

MITCHAM.

THE number of houſes in this pariſh is about 540; of inhabitants, 3240. The village is ſituated about nine miles from Weſtminſter-bridge.

The ſoil for the moſt part is a rich black mold, particularly fitted for the cultivation of ſuch plants as require a conſiderable depth of earth: in conſequence of which, within the laſt forty or fifty years large quantities of rhubarb and liquorice have been raiſed in this pariſh; beſides theſe, there are great plantations of lavender, wormwood, camomile, aniſe, peppermint, and other herbs uſed by the apothecaries. The ground taken up with this kind of culture amounts to 250 acres, 100 of which are appropriated to peppermint, from which a cordial is prepared in much requeſt among dram-drinkers.

The church is built of flints, and has a ſquare embattled tower. It has ſome remains of painted glaſs in the eaſt window, and has an ornamented Gothic font. The benefice is a vicarage, in the gift of the lay rector.

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The eminent perſons who have reſided here are Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Julius Cæſar, maſter of the rolls to queen Elizabeth (who once honoured him with a viſit at Mitcham), Dr. Donne, and Moſes Mendez, the *rich* poet. There are two calico-printing works and ſome ſnuff mills in this pariſh. Mitcham-grove, a pleaſant villa, is the property of Henry Hoare, Eſq.

CROYDON.

THE market town of Croydon is ſituated in an extenſive pariſh of the ſame name, about ten miles ſouth of London.

The greater part of the land is arable; the ſoil is various, conſiſting for the moſt part of chalk, gravel, ſand, and clay. A conſiderable part of Norwood belongs to the pariſh, and the waſte land on Shirley-common and Croydon-heath amounts to about 600 acres.

The number of houſes in the town and hamlets is 800; of inhabitants, nearly 4800. The town is tolerably well built. Its high ſtreet is almoſt a mile in length. There is a market every Saturday, which is reckoned the principal corn-market ſouth of London. There are two annual fairs, in July and October. At the latter, great quantities of walnuts are ſold; a product abundantly grown in the middle parts of Surry. The ſummer aſſizes for the county are held alternately here and at Guildford.

The manor of Croydon has belonged ever ſince the Conqueſt to the ſee of Canterbury, and moſt of the prelates to the time of Secker, have occaſionally reſided at the archiepiſcopal palace here, and have hence dated many of their public acts. In the year 1780 the building, being very much decayed, was ſold to Sir Abraham Pitches, and is now converted into a calico-printing and bleaching manufactory. The river Wandle has one of its ſources in what is called the Biſhop's Pond in the palace grounds.

The church is a handſome Gothic ſtructure, built of ſtone and flints, with an elegant ſquare pinnacled tower at the weſt end: it contains the tombs of archbiſhops Grindall, Whitgift, Sheldon, Wake, Potter, and Herring. Alexander Barkley the poet, author of the *Ship of Fools* and *Eclogues*, was buried here, where he alſo reſided during the early part of his life. A capital organ has lately been erected

in

in the church. Beſides the church, there are alſo places of worſhip here for the quakers and anabaptiſts.

Archbiſhop Whitgift, in 1596, founded in Croydon an hoſpital which ſtill goes by his name, and endowed it with lands for the maintenance of a warden, ſchool-maſter, or chaplain, and twenty-eight poor brethren and ſiſters, who are not to be admitted under the age of ſixty, and to be nominated by the ſucceſſive archbiſhops of the ſee. In the chapel is a portrait of the founder. The inſtitution is preſerved in a flouriſhing ſtate, except that there are now no ſcholars on the foundation, which appears to have been part of the original plan. The fiſhmongers' company have a free ſchool here. At Croydon, barracks have lately been erected for the accommodation of five troops of cavalry.

The earl of Liverpool has a ſeat in this pariſh.

MORDON.

THE land in this pariſh is for the moſt part arable; the ſoil, a ſtiff clay. The village is ten miles diſtant from Weſtminſter-bridge, on the road to Epſom. The number of houſes is 65, giving a population of about 390.

The church is a ſmall brick ſtructure, with a low tower at the weſt end; erected about the year 1636. The eaſt window has ſome painted glaſs. The principal monuments are of the family of Garth, once lords of the manor. One of the three daughters of the late Mr. Garth now enjoys it. The living is a rectory, under the patronage of the lord of the manor.

CARSHALTON.

THE land in this pariſh is both arable and paſture, though the former exceeds the latter in the proportion of ſeven to one; the ſoil is chalk, loam, and clay.

The preſent number of houſes is 165, containing about 990 inhabitants.

In the centre of the village is a large clear pool of water formed by the river Wandle, which adds greatly to the beauty of the place: it riſes in the adjoining park in a fine ſpring, and at a ſmall diſtance flows to the village in a ſtrong current, and begins its duty in turning a mill at the ſame place. On the banks of the river are eſtabliſhed numerous manufactories, of which the chief are two paper mills,

leather and parchment mills, oil, ſnuff, and logwood mills, and ſome extenſive bleaching grounds.

The principal manor, which belonged to the Scawen family during the greateſt part of this century, is now in the poſſeſſion of George Taylor, Eſq. The manor-houſe is in a park near the church. Another manor, which alſo belonged to the Scawens, is now the property of W. Andrews, Eſq.

The church, which has a low embattled tower, was probably erected in the reign of Richard II., but has ſome modern additions. It contains an ancient tomb of the family of Gaynesford, and modern monuments of Sir W. Scawen, Sir Edmund Hoſkins, Sir John Fellows, and Sir G. Amyand. The benefice is a rectory, under private patronage.

The perſons of note who have reſided here, are Sir Nicholas Throgmorton, one of queen Elizabeth's counſellors; and Dr. Ratcliffe, equally celebrated for the brutality of his manners, and for extraordinary ſkill in his profeſſion.

BEDDINGTON.

THIS pariſh contains about 3800 acres, the whole of which is arable, except 250 acres of paſture land: the ſoil is a light ſand. The village is about eleven miles from Weſtminſter-bridge. Its number of houſes is about 100; of inhabitants, 600.

The manor of Beddington has for many generations been in the poſſeſſion of the family of Carew, in which name it is ſtill kept, though by female deſcent. The manor-houſe is a large brick building, occupying three ſides of a ſquare, the chief part of which is modern. The ancient part was erected by Sir Francis Carew, who entertained queen Elizabeth at his houſe in two ſucceſſive years. He is ſaid to have been the firſt gentleman in England who planted orange-trees.

The church is a Gothic edifice, with a ſquare tower at the weſt end, erected in the reign of Richard II. It contains the tombs of ſeveral individuals of the Carews. The living is a rectory, in the gift of the lord of the manor. That eminent naval commander Sir John Leake was long an inhabitant of this pariſh.

The hamlet of *Wallington*, in Beddington pariſh, on the banks of the Wandle, has a large manufactory for printing calico. There is an ancient chapel in the diſtrict, at preſent uſed as a cart-houſe and ſtable. *Woodcote*, now a ſingle farm-houſe, is thought to have been a conſiderable Roman ſtation.

ADDING-

ADDINGTON.

THE land in this pariſh is for the moſt part arable, with a conſiderable quantity of wood and common. The ſoil is very various, both gravel, chalk, and ſtiff clay.

There are 22 houſes in the pariſh, containing about 130 inhabitants.

The village is ſituated at the foot of a ſmall range of hills, to which it gives its own name. On the brow of the hill are a number of low tumuli, in which urns have been found. The knights templars had once a manor in this pariſh, which paſſed, with the reſt of their property, to the knights of St. John of Jeruſalem. This, and another manor, paſſed, at the diſſolution of monaſteries, to the family of Leigh. One manor, now united with the reſt, is held by the ſervice of preſenting a diſh of pottage to the king at his coronation. The preſent lord of the manor is James Trecothick, Eſq. who has a handſome modern manſion in the centre of a park.

The church is a very ſmall ſtructure of Gothic architecture, with a low brick tower at the weſt end; the chief tombs in it are thoſe of the Leighs and their connexions. The church is decorated with ſome old hatchments and ſtreamers, and pieces of ruſty armour. The living is a vicarage, in the gift of the lay impropriator of the rectory.

CHEAM.

THIS pariſh contains 1400 acres of land, of which 120 are paſture, the reſt being for the moſt part arable. The ſoil on the north ſide of the pariſh is a ſtrong clay, admirably adapted for the culture of beans and wheat; that on the ſouth ſide is chalky.

The number of houſes is 61, of inhabitants about 360.

The church is a ſmall ſtructure built of flints, with a low ſquare embattled tower. It contains the tombs of lord Stourton; of John lord Lumley, lord of the manor two centuries ago; and of his two wives, lady Jane Lumley, daughter of the earl of Arundel, one of the moſt learned women of her age; lady Elizabeth Lumley, daughter of lord Darcey; and of that upright lawyer, Sir Joſeph Yates, judge of the common pleas. The rectors of Cheam have been men remarkable for their abilities, and the high ſtations that they have afterwards occupied in the church: from the liſt may be ſelected the names of Watſon biſhop of Chicheſter, in the 16th

century; Andrews biſhop of Wincheſter, in the 17th century; Mountain archbiſhop of York; Senhouſe biſhop of Carliſle; Hacket biſhop of Lichfield and Coventry; Playfere, Margaret profeſſor of divinity at Cambridge; and Bernard, Savilian profeſſor of aſtronomy at Oxford. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of St. John's college, Oxford.

At Cudington, in this pariſh, was ſituated the magnificent palace of Nonſuch, begun by Henry VIII., finiſhed by Henry earl of Arundel, a favourite ſeat of Elizabeth, and kept up as a royal reſidence till the execution of Charles I.; it then came into the poſſeſſion of Algernon Sidney, and at the Reſtoration was granted to the dutcheſs of Cleveland, who pulled down the old houſe, and diſparked the land. The eſtate was the property of the Rev. Joſeph Whately, now deceaſed, whoſe manſion is at ſome diſtance from the ſite of the old palace. There is a vein of fine tobacco-pipe clay in Cheam, very uſeful for making molds for the caſting of metals.

Kingston Hundred.

K E W.

THIS pariſh, which previous to the year 1769 was a hamlet of Richmond, is but of ſmall extent. The ſoil is ſandy, and almoſt the whole that is not included in the royal gardens is arable.

The number of houſes is about 80, giving a population of about 480. Moſt of them are built round a level open ſpot, called Kew-green, and make a handſome appearance.

The chapel, erected in 1714 on the eaſt end of the green, is a ſmall brick ſtructure with a turret. Among other tombs, it contains thoſe of Gainſborough, the celebrated painter; Meyer, eminent for his painting in miniature and enamel; and Kirby, the architect and writer on perſpective. It is in the dioceſe of Wincheſter, and forms a joint vicarage with Peterſham.

Among the former inhabitants of Kew were Charles Somerſet earl of Worceſter; Edward earl of Devon; Sir George Puckering, lord keeper in queen Elizabeth's time; Sir Peter Lely; and Stephen Duck the poet.

Kew is principally of note for its royal palace and gardens. The palace, anciently Kew-houſe, was taken on a long leaſe from the Capel family by the late prince

of

of Wales, who made it an occaſional retreat; and it was improved and ornamented by Kent for the princeſs dowager. It is ſmall and plain, but contains ſome good pictures.

Kew gardens, containing about 120 acres, were begun by the late prince of Wales, and to the preſent time have been receiving ſucceſſive improvements: the walks are planned with much taſte, and ornamented by a variety of native and foreign trees and ſhrubs, among which are intermixed the pictureſque decorations of alcoves, temples, and arches of various architecture, deſigned and executed by the late Sir William Chambers. The principal of theſe is a Chineſe pagoda, 163 feet in height. But the glory and pride of theſe gardens is the vaſt and ſcientific collection that it contains of plants from all parts of the world, aſſembled, by the direction of his preſent majeſty, in ſpacious ſtoves and green-houſes, and flouriſhing almoſt as luxuriantly as in their native climates; a collection which far ſurpaſſes in its numbers and arrangement any other, either private or public, as is evinced by the valuable catalogue, entitled, *Hortus Kewenſis*, publiſhed by the late Mr. Aiton, the head gardener. Dr. Darwin has celebrated theſe gardens in the following beautiful lines:

> "So ſits, enthron'd in vegetable pride,
> Imperial KEW, by Thames's glittering ſide:
> Obedient ſails, from realms unfurrow'd, bring
> For her the unnam'd progeny of ſpring:
> Attendant nymphs her dulcet mandates hear,
> And nurſe in foſtering arms the tender year;
> Plant the young bulb, inhume the living ſeed;
> Prop the weak ſtem, the erring tendril lead:
> Or fan, in glaſs-built fanes, the ſtranger flowers
> With milder gales, and ſteep with warmer ſhowers:
> Delighted Thames through tropic umbrage glides,
> And flowers antarctic, bending o'er his tides;
> Drinks the new tints, the ſweets unknown inhales,
> And calls the ſons of ſcience to his vales.
> In one bright point admiring Nature eyes
> The fruits and foliage of diſcordant ſkies;
> Twines the gay flowret with the fragrant bough,
> And binds the wreath round George's royal brow." *Loves of the Plants.*

An old houſe oppoſite to the palace, formerly belonging to the Portman family, and purchaſed in 1781 for the queen, has been inhabited by various branches of the royal family; and the preſent king was educated in it.

There is a handſome ſtone bridge acroſs the Thames at Kew, opened in 1789, and the private property of Robert Tunſtal, Eſq. whoſe father erected it.

RICHMOND.

THE pariſh of Richmond, anciently called Sheen, is of moderate extent; the ſoil is a light ſand or gravel, and that part of it which is not included in the royal park and gardens almoſt wholly arable.

The number of houſes in the pariſh is 815; of inhabitants, about 4900.

The manor of Sheen in this pariſh has long been annexed to the crown, and was a favourite reſidence of many of our kings. Henry VII. converted the manor-houſe into a handſome palace, and gave to the town its preſent name of Richmond. It gradually fell to decay; but part of it was inhabited in the time of James II., and ſome of the offices are ſtill in being. Its ſite is occupied by private houſes held on leaſes under the crown.

The new park, which was made by Charles I., is of conſiderable circuit, and well ſtocked with deer; but little of it is within this pariſh. Of the old park, part was formed into an extenſive garden by Brown, and united to Kew-garden; and the remainder was converted by the preſent king into a dairy and grazing farm, ſuperintended by himſelf.

Many alſo of the nobility and people of faſhion, invited by the beauty of the ſituation, make Richmond an occaſional reſidence. Indeed the whole iſland ſhows no place comparable for richneſs and perfect beauty to the view from the brow of Richmond-hill. A ſucceſſion of high banks richly clothed with hanging wood, form the ſouthern boundary of the luxuriant ſcene. To the weſt and north flows the Thames in its winding courſe from Twickenham to Iſleworth, bordered with meadows of the fineſt verdure, or, more properly, pleaſure-grounds, belonging to the fine ſeats which decorate its banks; and beyond the Thames, a rich and well-wooded country, beautifully varied in its ſurface, and interſperſed with houſes, extends to the limit of viſion. The hill and town of Richmond itſelf, with its elegant houſes and ſloping gardens, and the woods of Peterſham, form almoſt an equally delightful proſpect from the river and the oppoſite meadows.

In Richmond-gardens is an elegant obſervatory, built by Sir William Chambers in 1769, containing a valuable ſet of aſtronomical inſtruments, and a collection of

ſubjects

ſubjects in natural hiſtory; among which are ſpecimens of the minerals of the Hartz-foreſt, in the king's German dominions.

Among the attractions of Richmond is a theatre, opened in the ſummer, and ſupplied with performers from the London ſtages.

The bridge over the Thames at Richmond is an elegant ſtone ſtructure, built by Meſſrs. Paine and Couſe, and finiſhed in 1777, at the expenſe of about 26,000*l.* The view from it, of both ſides of the river, is ſingularly beautiful.

The pariſh church of Richmond is an irregular building, partly ancient, partly modern, with a low embattled tower. Among the monuments, ſome of the moſt remarkable are thoſe of Henry viſcount Brounker, lady Howard of Eſcrick, and her ſon; Mrs. Yates the actreſs, Robert Lewes, Eſq. admiral Holbourn, and Sir Matthew Decker. The poet Thomſon, who ſpent the latter part of his life at Richmond, in a houſe now occupied (much enlarged) by the Hon. Mrs. Boſcawen, was buried in Richmond church, and a braſs tablet has lately been put up by the earl of Buchan to mark the ſpot. The living of Richmond is a perpetual curacy, under the patronage of St. John's college, Cambridge.

At Richmond are alms-houſes founded by biſhop Duppa, who died at this place in 1662; and alſo ſome others, and a charity-ſchool.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES.

THIS town, which is one of the principal in the county, has a market on Saturdays, and is governed by a corporation of about fifty members, a town clerk, recorder, two bailiffs, and a high ſteward. It was formerly a borough, and ſent repreſentatives to parliament till the reign of Edward III., at which period, in conſequence of a petition from the corporation, it was relieved from that ſuppoſed burden.

The town, together with the hamlets of Hook and Ham, contains about 750 houſes, and 4500 inhabitants. The name of the place is derived from its having been a royal demeſne, and the occaſional reſidence of many of the Anglo-Saxon kings. During the civil wars of the laſt century it became a poſt of conſiderable importance, and was alternately occupied by troops of both parties: the affections of the inhabitants, however, were directed to the king, from whom they had received many privileges and favours.

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The town-hall, in the market-place, was erected in the reign of Elizabeth. It is decorated with ſome painted glaſs, chiefly repreſenting armorial bearings. The Lent aſſizes for Surry are held in this hall.

The church is a conſiderable ſtructure, built at different times, but no part of it before the reign of Richard II. Some of the principal monuments are thoſe of Sir Anthony Benn, colonel Fane, George Bate, M. D. and captain Pearce, loſt in the Halſewell Eaſt Indiaman. The church is in the dioceſe of Wincheſter. The living is a vicarage, in the gift of King's college, Cambridge. There are meeting-houſes for the preſbyterians, anabaptiſts, and quakers, in this town. A free grammar-ſchool was founded here by queen Elizabeth on the ſite of a ſuppreſſed religious houſe. The ſchool-room was anciently the chapel of St. Mary Magdalen. There is an alms-houſe founded in 1667 by W. Cleave, Eſq. alderman of London. The wooden bridge over the Thames at Kingſton is the oldeſt on the river, that of London excepted. It is mentioned in a record of the eighth year of Henry III. It has frequently been in part broken down in the civil commotions of the kingdom, and conſequently has undergone frequent repairs. The Middleſex ſide was lately much widened. There is a bridge of three arches over a ſmall ſtream called the Hogs-mill River, which here joins the Thames. The trade of Kingſton is chiefly in corn and malt. The pariſh is large. Its ſoil conſiſts of clay, ſand, and gravel. The land is for the moſt part arable. The manor, which was a royal demeſne, was granted to the freemen by king John, on payment of a fee-farm rent.

The principal building worth notice in this pariſh, is Ham-houſe, ſituated near the Thames; it was built in the year 1610, and, in the reign of Charles II. became the property of the duke of Lauderdale, who furniſhed it in the moſt magnificent ſtyle of that luxurious age; ſince which period it has undergone but little alteration, and remains a curious ſpecimen of the maſſy and cumbrous decoration then in vogue. It contains ſome fine pictures by old maſters, and a rich collection of portraits. Its preſent owner is the earl of Dyſart. The walks of Ham are planted with venerable trees, which give a magnificent ſhade to the banks of the Thames.

MOULSEY.

TWO ſmall towns, diſtinguiſhed into Eaſt and Weſt Moulſey, occupy the bank of the Thames oppoſite Hampton: their name is derived from their ſituation at the junction

junction of the Mole with the former river. At E. Moulſey is a bridge, and at W. Moulſey a ferry, over the Thames; the property of both of which belongs to lord Brownlow. Mr. Tutton, the lord of the manor, has built a handſome houſe at E. Moulſey.

WALTON.

BETWEEN Moulſey and Weybridge, on the Thames' ſide, is ſituated the village and pariſh of Walton. On an elevation in the heath, called St. George's Hill, is an ancient camp, ſuppoſed to have been Roman, whence is continued to ſome diſtance a rampart and trench. An elegant bridge of light-coloured brick, ornamented with ſtone, croſſes the river, from which is continued a long ſucceſſion of arches ſupporting the road, in order to give a free paſſage to the water in times of flood. The preſent bridge was erected in the room of a very handſome and ingeniouſly conſtructed one of wood, by the late Mr. Decker, containing an arch of an hundred feet in the ſpan, but which was taken down a few years ſince on account of its deficiency in ſtrength.

Several villas and elegant manſions are contained within the boundaries of the pariſh, particularly Apps-court, belonging to Jer. Hodges, Eſq.; Aſhley-park, the reſidence of Sir Henry Fletcher, Bart.; Burwood-park, the ſeat of Sir John Frederick, Bart., member of parliament for the county; and the manſion of the earl of Tankerville. But the glory of this neighbourhood is *Paine's-hill*, the reſidence of the late Benjamin Bond Hopkins, Eſq. From the weſtern bank of the Mole extends to a conſiderable diſtance, a ſeries of deſolate moory hills, of which the tract lying neareſt the river was occupied by Mr. Charles Hamilton, whoſe taſte and perſeverance have converted a bare waſte into another paradiſe. A ſemicircular park ſloping to the Mole, bounded and overlooked by a creſcent-formed girdle of plantations and gardens, conſtitutes the great outline, each part of which is finiſhed in an admirable manner, ſo as to combine in perfect harmony a vaſt variety of ſituation and embelliſhment. The lake with its iſlands, the wild woods, the ornamented groves, the ſhrubberies glowing with the bright tints of well-ſelected exotic vegetables, give and receive from each other the varied and mingled beauties of aſſociation and contraſt. From Mr. Hamilton this delightful retreat paſſed to Benjamin Bond Hopkins, Eſq. who added

added a handſome and convenient houſe. On his death it was purchaſed by Robert Hibbert, Eſq.; at the ſame time, a famous ſtatue of Bacchus, which had been ſucceſſively poſſeſſed by Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Hopkins, and valued at 1700*l.*, was ſold for about 400*l.*

WEYBRIDGE.

THIS pretty village is ſituated on the river Wey, a little above its junction with the Thames, and contains within its parochial boundaries ſeveral beautiful villas. Of theſe the principal is Oatlands, the reſidence of the duke of York, occupying a grand ſweeping brow on the Thames, from which Walton-bridge and the adjoining ſcenery appear to great advantage: ſince it came into the poſſeſſion of his royal highneſs, many improvements have been made in its little territory. Ham-farm, the ſeat of the earl of Portmore, is alſo well worthy of notice; the farm and plantations occupy 500 acres, bounded on one ſide by the Thames, and interſected by the river Wey. The next place that merits notice is Woburn-farm, an encloſure of about 150 acres, which was planned and laid out by the late Philip Southcote, Eſq., who, together with Mr. Hamilton, was the inventor of the elegant *ferme ornée*: the former of theſe gentlemen Maſon in his *Engliſh Garden* celebrates in the following lines:

> " On thee, too, Southcote, ſhall the Muſe beſtow
> No vulgar praiſe; for thou to humbleſt things
> Couldſt give ennobling beauties: deck'd by thee,
> The ſimple farm eclips'd the garden's pride,
> Ev'n as the virgin bluſh of innocence
> The harlotry of art."——

Beſides thoſe above mentioned, this pariſh contains Jay's-place and Brooklands, the ſeats of George Payne, Eſq. of which the latter is peculiarly beautiful.

ESHER.

THIS pariſh is chiefly remarkable for the two celebrated ſeats of Claremont and Eſher-place.

Claremont, the noble reſidence of the earl of Tyrconnel, lies a little to the ſouth-weſt of *Eſher*, and was formerly poſſeſſed by Thomas Holles Pelham, duke of New-

Newcaſtle, having purchaſed it from Sir John Vanbrugh. After he had been created earl of Clare in 1714, it thence obtained its preſent name, "Claremont." Sir John had built his houſe, from a deſign of his own, in a ſingular, and rather an irregular kind of architecture. It was a large, low brick dwelling, in a hollow ſituation, with little proſpect or decoration. Its ſite is ſtill marked by two cedars, which grew at each end of it, about 200 yards in the front of the preſent ſtately edifice. To this houſe his Grace added a magnificent room, for the occaſional entertainment of large companies, when he made a part of adminiſtration. He alſo built very convenient offices, ſome of which ſtill remain; and extenſive kitchen gardens, all of which have been preſerved. His Grace alſo conſiderably enlarged his original purchaſe, by extenſive additions taken in from the circumjacent common, planting on it from time to time, in conſiderable numbers, trees of various kinds, with little taſte in diſtribution, but with the ſatisfaction of ſeeing them thrive beyond all expectation.

On the death of the duke of Newcaſtle, the late lord Clive became poſſeſſed of Claremont by purchaſe; by whom no expenſe was ſpared, and no talents left unemployed, that could tend to improve and to embelliſh this park: and it is now become a very beautiful, as well as very profitable, tract of ground; maintaining a large ſtock of cows, ſheep, and horſes; affording a great quantity both of paſturage and of hay; and the parts of it under tillage making abundant returns of grain and other vegetables. Lord Clive, when ſetting out on his laſt voyage to India, employed the celebrated *Browne* upon this place, both as his *gardener* and *architect*, without CONTROL of *plan*, or LIMITATION of *expenſe*; merely ordering him to build him a houſe, and to improve and decorate the grounds in the beſt and moſt magnificent ſtyle that his capacity was equal to: in all this Browne did not diſappoint him. The expenſe of *Claremont*, firſt and laſt, to lord Clive, did not amount to leſs than 150,000*l.*

Nothing could be more flattering and more gratifying to Browne, than the being employed as an *architect* in ſo great an undertaking. He well knew the world allowed him his FULL MERIT as a *gardener*; and though he was frequently conſulted in making additions to or alterations of old houſes, *Claremont* is his ONLY *legitimate architectural offſpring*. Browne's genius ſhowed itſelf equal to this important confidence: he deſigned and completed a houſe, which for convenience, as well as for magnificence, is ſcarcely to be equalled. It ſtands in a commanding ſituation, nearly towards the centre of the park, forming an oblong ſquare of forty-four yards in length

by thirty-four in breadth, and contains eight ſpacious rooms on the ground floor, beſides the hall of entrance, and beyond that the great ſtaircaſe. A conſiderable expanſe of water is diſcovered through an opening in the plantations not perfectly regular, but thickly ſkirted on both ſides by full-grown trees of various hue and ſpecies. Immediately beyond the water, the eye creeps up a verdant concave for about 250 yards, when it reaches an eminence richly crowned by a brilliant maſs of cloſe wood: there is alſo from another front of the houſe a view of a large piece of water, and a pretty romantic low building at the end of it, called the duke of Newcaſtle's fiſh-houſe. The principal front is diſtinguiſhed for the beauty and ſimplicity of its architecture; a flight of thirteen ſteps conducts to the great door of entrance under a pediment ſupported by four Corinthian columns.

The pleaſure-grounds and cloſe plantations are conſiderably extenſive; admirably laid out and well kept; through which the genius of Browne is every where viſible. Several little erections for the purpoſe of repoſe, ſequeſtration, or as ſtations to proſpects, are judiciouſly diſperſed through the woods, lawns, glades, &c. compoſed of materials correſpondent to their characters, and formed and furniſhed with appropriate accommodations. The building in form of a caſtle, placed on the higheſt mount in the park, was erected by the duke of Newcaſtle, then lord Clare, and called after his own name Claremont; on which occaſion Garth wrote his poem of *Claremont*, in imitation of Cooper's-hill. Hence there is a moſt delightful proſpect both within and without the park. St. Paul's, Windſor-caſtle, Hampton-court, &c. &c. are perfectly viſible. Hares and partridges abound in the park, and the preſent endeavour to increaſe the number of pheaſants is likely to be ſucceſsful.

Eſher-place, the ſeat of the late right hon. Henry Pelham, at preſent occupied by his daughter, Miſs Pelham, is a brick ſtructure in the Gothic ſtyle, on the ſite of an ancient palace of the biſhops of Wincheſter, founded by biſhop Wainfleet, and altered and improved by cardinal Wolſey. It is ſituated in a low vale on the banks of the Mole, and its domains extend to the neighbouring heights, which are creſted by grand plantations, and afford a variety of rich proſpects over the windings of the Thames to Windſor, Richmond-hill, and Harrow. Thomſon has celebrated "Eſher's groves"—

> "Where in the ſweeteſt ſolitude, embrac'd
> By the ſoft windings of the ſilent Mole,
> From courts and ſenates Pelham finds repoſe."

COBHAM.

THIS village and pariſh is only remarkable for ſome copper and iron-works, the property of Mr. Raby, which are the means of employing a conſiderable number of the poor in this neighbourhood; and for a ſeat built after an Italian model, by the late lord Ligonier. The Mole, which flows by its ſide, being widened to four or five times its natural breadth, is formed into a very conſpicuous and beautiful feature of the landſcape; and the houſe, embowered in fine elm-trees, conſtitutes a good point of view from Cobham-heath. At a little diſtance is Cobham-ſtreet, a hamlet, conſiſting of two inns and ſeveral ſtraggling houſes diſpoſed along the road ſide, whence it derives its name.

CHERTSEY HUNDRED.

CHERTSEY.

THE ancient market-town of Chertſey is a place of no great extent or conſequence, built in a low, but not unhealthy ſituation, about a mile from the Thames. It was formerly raiſed into ſome importance by its vicinity to a large abbey of Benedictine monks, the abbot of which enjoyed a ſeat in parliament; of the old building there are at preſent no remains: the church, however, of the ſame date with the abbey, ſtill continues to be made uſe of; it is of Saxon architecture, very plain, and contains no monuments except two ſmall tablets for the Mawbey family. The town has a weekly market celebrated for its poultry, and four annual fairs.

To this place the poet Cowley retired, and ſpent the laſt years of his life at the *Porch-houſe*, now belonging to Richard Clark, Eſq.

At a little diſtance from Chertſey is St. Ann's-hill, the ſeat of the right hon. Charles James Fox. The preſent appearance of this place ſhows how much may be done by a well-regulated taſte, even with an unpromiſing ſubject. The houſe, which is an old one, ſtands upon the ſide of the hill, and opens upon about ſeven acres of pleaſure-ground, laid out with exquiſite taſte and judgment. Over this pleaſure-ground, from before the principal front of the houſe, is ſeen a hanging lawn of about eleven acres, ſurrounded by a belt of well-grown trees, and various underwood, through which winds a gravel walk, parted from the lawn by an open gate fence. Mr. Fox poſſeſſes ſeveral fields to the back of his houſe, which are not ſeen from his improved grounds. The diſtribution of the pleaſure-ground is faſcina-

ting, and it is decorated with trees of a variety of kinds, moſt happily grouped or judiciouſly diſperſed, and all of them perfectly well grown. Mr. Fox's collection of botanical plants, exotic and native, is very conſiderable; and for their protection in winter he has built a ſpacious conſervatory. In theſe pleaſure-grounds, though upon ſo ſmall a ſcale as ſeven acres, is formed a combination of every thing that is graceful and ornamental in the moſt extenſive decorations of this nature, WATER ALONE EXCEPTED, which no art can produce in this ſituation. Nearly in the centre of the ſhrubbery ſtands a very prettily deſigned open pavilion, lined with ſpars and ſhells, diſpoſed with great taſte and effect, over which is a moſt pleaſing ſitting-room with a fire-place, and furniture well ſuited for repoſe or collations. The windows of this room are chiefly of painted glaſs, by Jarvis, amongſt which appears a very ſtriking likeneſs of Mr. Fox. Upon the top of St. Ann's-hill is a commodious ſeat, from which is a moſt extenſive proſpect over three points of the compaſs, comprehending St. Paul's church at nineteen miles diſtance, Windſor-caſtle, Hampton-court palace, and a prodigious number of country ſeats, villages, ſpires of churches, and every other object that characterizes the beautiful and luxuriant vale of the Thames.

Beſides St. Ann's-hill, there is in this pariſh an elegant modern villa called Botleys, the property and reſidence of Sir Joſeph Mawbey; and Otterſhaw houſe and park, belonging to Edmund Boehm, Eſq. both large buildings ſituated on eminences.

Adjoining to Otterſhaw is Anningſley-farm, ſurrounded by a ring fence of ſome miles; belonging to which is a plain houſe, worthy of notice, as having been the property and reſidence of the late celebrated Thomas Day, Eſq., author of the Hiſtory of Sandford and Merton, &c. It is now rented by the owner of Otterſhaw.

Mr. Day was in theory great, but in practice very deficient. He was fully perſuaded, till the expenſive attempts of many years convinced him of the reverſe, that there was ſcarcely any land, however ſterile, which might not, by cultivation, be brought to conſiderable perfection. This eſtate, nearly ſurrounded by barren heaths, of which it probably heretofore formed a part, was of a poiſonous, light, ſandy ſoil, in the tillage and manure of which he expended large ſums to little purpoſe. As a gentleman, he could afford experiments and bear the loſs. In ſome parts on the banks of the river, the eſtate was much improved; and in the more barren, which had hitherto produced nothing, he made large plantations of fir, aſh, &c. which are now of conſiderable growth; but after all, by far the greater ſpace was left as he found it, unproductive and unprofitable. He was not aſhamed to

acknowledge his failure, replying, that he had had the ſatisfaction of giving employ to the poor of his neighbourhood when they could not procure it elſewhere. One life of this gentleman has been publiſhed, and another is expected.

Near Anningſley is the beautiful piece of water, Shire-pond, well ſtocked with fiſh; parallel to which runs the Baſingſtoke canal.

THORPE LEE

IS a neat pretty village on the Thames' ſide, with a handſome old church. In the pariſh are the ſeats of admiral Evans, Sir Edward Blacket, Bart., and Mr. Wyatt. It is however remarkable for being the reſidence of Mr. Wapſhote, a farmer, the lineal deſcendant of a line of anceſtors from the time of the great Alfred; to one of whom, Reginald de Wapſhote, was granted by that monarch this individual farm, upon which his poſterity have ever ſince reſided.

EGHAM.

THIS village, like the former, is pleaſantly ſituated on the Thames; and within the boundary of its pariſh includes *Cooper's-hill*, firſt rendered famous by the muſe of Denham, and afterwards celebrated by Pope and Somervile.

> "On Cooper's-hill eternal wreaths ſhall grow,
> While laſts the mountain, or while Thames ſhall flow.
> I ſeem through conſecrated walks to rove,
> I hear ſoft muſic die along the grove:
> Led by the ſound, I rove from ſhade to ſhade,
> By godlike poets venerable made:
> *Here* his firſt lays majeſtic Denham ſung,
> *There* the laſt numbers flow'd from Cowley's tongue." POPE.

Of Sir John Denham's houſe on Cooper's-hill there are at preſent no remains: it is now occupied by Ankerwyke Purniſh, the reſidence of lord Shuldham, and Kingſwood-lodge, the villa of William Smith, Eſq. in whoſe grounds is a ſeat recorded by tradition as the very ſpot whence Denham ſurveyed the beautiful and varied ſcenery deſcribed in his poem.

In this pariſh is alſo the plain of Runnymede, on which are exhibited annual horſe-races: its celebrity, however, ariſes from its being the ſpot—

> "Where England's ancient barons, clad in arms,
> And ſtern with conqueſt, from their tyrant king
> (Then render'd tame) did challenge and ſecure
> The charter of their freedom."

Near the oppoſite ſhore is a ſmall iſland, ſtill called Magna Charta Iſland, where it is ſaid the great charter was ſigned.

GUILD-

GUILDFORD.

THE borough and market town of Guildford, the county town of Surry, is ſituated on the river Wey, thirty miles from London, conſiſting principally of one good ſtreet of about half a mile in length. It ſends two members to parliament, and is governed by a mayor, recorder, and aldermen. There were formerly here three convents, one of which is now converted into officers' barracks, and a range of buildings for the accommodation of the ſoldiers has been lately erected. The churches are three in number, and the baptiſts and quakers have each a meeting-houſe. Its charitable eſtabliſhments are conſiderable; conſiſting of two charity-ſchools for thirty boys and twenty girls, an alms-houſe founded by Geo. Abbot, archbiſhop of Canterbury, for old men and widows, and a grammar-ſchool inſtituted by king Edward VI. Another charity is juſt founded by two brothers, Mr. Parſons', of this town, for a ſmall number of men and women.

On an eminence at the ſouth ſide of the town ſtand the ruins of an ancient moated caſtle, a royal villa in the times of our Saxon monarchs: a tower conſtructed of flint, chalk, and grit-ſtone, and ſome fragments of the walls, are the ſole remains of this edifice. A brick bridge croſſes the Wey, near which is a conſiderable corn-mill, in which the ſeveral proceſſes of grinding, ſifting, &c. are carried on by an ingenious adaptation of machinery: it ſupplies the town and neighbourhood with excellent flour, beſides ſending large contributions to the London markets. This town formerly poſſeſſed an extenſive manufactory in woollen cloth, of which there are at preſent no remains: by means, however, of the Wey, which is rendered navigable from the Thames as far as Godalming, it partakes, with this latter place, in the carriage of oak timber from the Suſſex and Hampſhire woods to the dock-yards on the Thames. The horſe-races here, which commence when thoſe at Newmarket end, draw to the town a good deal of company; and the great road from Portſmouth to London paſſing through the town furniſhes ample employment and encouragement to its numerous inns. Immediately weſt of the town riſes a long and narrow ridge of chalk called the Hog's-back, from the ſummit of which is a very beautiful proſpect of the gentle and ſinuous courſe of the river Wey, through its richly cultivated vale, encloſed to the eaſt and weſt by wooded heights. The annexed view was taken from the ſouth ſide of the river.

Near Guildford are two ancient chapels, ſituated each on the top of a hill, reported to have been built by two ſiſters. They bear the names of St. Martha and St. Catharine; public ſervice is ſtill performed in the firſt, but the latter is reduced to a ruin.



Hayes delt.

W. Knight sculpt.

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a ruin. At Chilworth are ſome conſiderable gunpowder mills. On the Wey, four miles ſouth of Guildford, is ſituated the little town of Godalming; it conſiſts principally of a ſingle ſtreet about half a mile in length, has one pariſh church and two meeting-houſes, and a good brick bridge over the Wey. For its ſize it is a place of conſiderable buſineſs, poſſeſſing a manufactory of cloth, ſtockings, and fleecy-hoſiery: ſome curriers alſo are ſettled here; and from a large wharf near the bridge, are annually ſent into the Thames great quantities of oak timber; in this latter ſervice about thirty barges are conſtantly employed, with a back carriage of coals for the ſupply of Guildford, Godalming, and the neighbourhood. In the vicinity of theſe towns, by the ſide of the Wey, or in the little glens among the hills, are ſeveral beautiful ſituations, particularly the village of Puttenham, where admiral Corniſh has a villa. The principal manſion in the vicinity is Clandon, the property of lord Onſlow, and at preſent occupied by the archbiſhop of Canterbury. Of the other ſurrounding ſeats, the chief are, a houſe formerly belonging to the late general Oglethorpe, near Godalming, now the property of Nathaniel Godbold, Eſq.; and another, the reſidence of captain Bertie; the manſion and park of William Alderſey, Eſq. at Stoke; that of R. Auſten, Eſq. at Shalford; the ſeat of dowager lady Grantley, at Wonerſh; Loſeley-houſe, the ſeat of William Stroud, Eſq.; and Sutton-place, belonging to Webbe Weſton, Eſq.: the two latter are very ancient.

RYEGATE.

THE borough of Ryegate, which gives its name to the hundred, is ſituated a little eaſt of the river Mole, twenty-two miles from London. It is a place of conſiderable antiquity, and contains ſeveral good houſes; on account, however, of the large poor rates, it is at preſent in a ſtate of great depopulation. It poſſeſſes a weekly market for corn, poultry, &c., and one on the firſt Wedneſday in every month for cattle. The patronage of this borough is divided between lord Hardwicke and lord Somers, who nominate its two repreſentatives in the Houſe of Commons.

The church is a ſubſtantial ſtone building, in the Gothic ſtyle, with a ſquare tower, open cloiſters, and arched windows, containing in the chancel a fine marble monument to the memory of Richard Ladbroke, Eſq. The living is a vicarage, in the gift of the Filewood family. The independent diſſenters have alſo lately erected a meeting-houſe here. On a hill cloſe to the town are the remains of an old caſtle,

caſtle, and a paſſage ſcooped in the ſoft ſand-ſtone to an unknown extent; it ſoon divides into two branches, one of which leads to a ſmall apartment or enlargement of the paſſage; the other is incapable of being explored on account of the roof having fallen in. The green, planted with ſome old cannon, is a pretty object to the traveller, near which is a moat that formerly ſupplied the greater part of the town with water. A little way on the Brighton road is ſituated a large workhouſe for the poor of five aſſociated pariſhes, who are farmed to an overſeer at 1900*l.* *per annum*, and employed in the manufacture of coarſe blankets, rugs, waggon-tilts, &c. The country round is fertile and well cultivated; adapted for the moſt part to the turnip huſbandry, being a light chalky or ſandy ſoil; there is however ſome clay land, on which are made bricks and tiles of an excellent quality: ſome pits of fuller's earth alſo have lately been opened. The moſt beautiful ſituation in this neighbourhood is Gatton, on the London road, about three miles from Ryegate. At the northern extremity ſtands Upper Gatton-houſe, the reſidence of Mark Currie, Eſq. ſurrounded by fine plantations, and commanding a rich and extenſive proſpect. About a mile further is Gatton-park, or Lower Gatton-houſe, an elegant and modern ſtructure, the property and reſidence of William Petrie, Eſq.; it is ſituated on the top of a ſloping eminence, and ſurrounded by a beautiful park, in which the happy natural diſpoſition of the ground is conſulted, and decorated by luxuriant woods broken into groves, and ſcattered into elegant groupes, between the intervals of which are charming views of the wooded hills and rich vales of the circumjacent country. This manſion-houſe and its appendages were purchaſed by Mr. Petrie of Robert Ladbroke, Eſq. for 110,000*l.* of which ſum a conſiderable part was a valuable conſideration for the entire property of the borough of Gatton, the two members of which are returned by the conſtable and ſeven electors at the court of the lord of the manor.

LEATHERHEAD,

A CONSIDERABLE village on the road from Epſom to Dorking, has a bridge of many arches over the Mole, which, though a ſmall ſtream, is ſubject to great floods. Hence commences a beautiful vale, running upwards about four miles, and affording a bed for the Mole, which turns round the corner of Box-hill in its courſe from the neighbourhood of Ryegate. This narrow vale, conſiſting of a ſtripe of rich meadows, bounded on each ſide by a range of ſteep eminences, combines

combines more of the romantic character with the beautiful than any ſpot within an equal diſtance from the metropolis. It is decorated with many elegant ſeats occupying its eaſtern ſide, while its weſtern is chiefly taken up with the park and grounds of Mr. Lock, a gentleman well known for the juſtneſs and elegance of his taſte. A few miles on the Guildford road is the ancient village of Effingham, which gives the title of earl to the peer of that name.

Norbury-park, Mr. Lock's reſidence, is a very handſome white houſe, ſeated on the ſummit of the high ground above the vale, in the midſt of ſome of the moſt flouriſhing and beautifully diſpoſed plantations any where to be ſeen. The ground is broken into moſt pictureſque ſwells and depreſſions, and affords a number of ſtations for proſpects of perfect beauty, ſome confined, and others extenſive. In the houſe itſelf, among other works of art, is a drawing-room, painted by George Barret, an eminent maſter of landſcape, who died in 1784. On the oppoſite ſide of the vale, in full view, are the pleaſing village of Mickleham, the elegant villa of Sir Lucas Pepys, backed by a bold hanging wood of pine and other trees; and laſtly, the moſt ſtriking feature of the whole place, *Box-hill*, riſing abrupt from the bank of the Mole, and diſplaying a chalky ſide, in ſome parts nearly bare, in others clothed with the box-trees which give name to the hill. The ſummit of this eminence is all crowned by the ſame ever-verdant ſhrubs, which are ſaid to have been planted by the earl of Arundel in the reign of Charles I. From the walk led along the brow is a very pictureſque view of the objects immediately at its foot, viz. Mr. Berkeley's houſe and grounds, and Mr. Bockett's grove, his houſe being hidden in trees. That extremity of the vale which opens into the plain or amphitheatre in which Dorking is ſituated, is alſo ſeen to great advantage; and on winding round the hill, the ſeats, villages, and other objects which decorate the rich vale leading to Ryegate, preſent themſelves in ſucceſſion. On an eminence oppoſite Box-hill, being a continuation of the high ground from Mr. Lock's park, is Denbighs, the ſeat of Joſeph Denniſon, Eſq. formerly in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Tyers, proprietor of Vauxhall. Hence the vale winds round towards Guildford. In addition to the attractions afforded by Box-hill and its vicinity, it may be mentioned that its chalky ſoil is remarkably productive of beautiful and rare plants, among which the Bee Orchis is to be found in conſiderable plenty.

EPSOM

IS ſituated about fourteen miles ſouth of London; it extends a mile and a half in a ſemicircle, from the church to Durdans, the elegant ſeat of Mrs. Kenworthy; being, however, very looſely built, with gardens and fields between the houſes, it contains but few inhabitants in proportion to its extent.

In the year 1618 a mineral ſpring, ſtrongly impregnated with what was afterwards called Epſom ſalt, was diſcovered about a mile from the town: this ſoon drew a crowd of viſitors to the wells, firſt of invalids, afterwards of idle citizens and people of faſhion; and for ſome years Epſom was the moſt favourite place of reſort, during the ſummer months, of any round the metropolis. Lodging-houſes, public rooms, and other buildings, adapted to the convenience or amuſement of ſtrangers, ſoon ſurrounded the ſpring, and the field in which it aroſe began to aſſume the appearance of a town. Its buſy days, however, were ſoon over; the ſea-coaſt, Bath, and Tunbridge, drew off the crowds that had been accuſtomed to frequent it, the buildings fell to decay, and the well is now deſerted and almoſt forgotten. There are many fine ſeats in the neighbourhood, of which the chief are Durdans, already mentioned; the manor-houſe on Woodcote-green; Woodcote-park; Aſhted-park; Pit-place, the ſeat of the late Philip Rowden, Eſq.; and the manſion of Sir George Glyn, Bart.; the two laſt of which more properly belong to Ewel, a little market-town about two miles nearer London than Epſom.

The inhabitants of Epſom conſiſt principally of very rich or very poor; and except during the time of the races few places can be more dull or unintereſting. The aſſembly-room, now diſuſed, is partly ſhut up or let out in ſmall tenements; and ſeveral coſtly buildings are uninhabited.

DORKING, *or* DARKING,

IS a market-town of moderate ſize, containing ſeveral good houſes of ancient date. One of them is inhabited by lord Leſlie. Here is a large ancient church, and ſeveral places of worſhip for ſeparatiſts. The market of Dorking is celebrated for the ſale of large poultry. The town has alſo a conſiderable trade in meal. Around the town are ſeveral fine ſeats; Deepden, formerly belonging to the duke of Norfolk; Beachworth-caſtle, Chart-park, &c.

K E N T.

GREENWICH.

HAVING in a preceding part of this work taken a general ſurvey of the county of Kent, with regard to its rivers, agriculture, and population, we now proceed to a particular deſcription of ſuch places as from local or other circumſtances moſt deſerve our notice, and ſeem neceſſarily to fall within the limits of our undertaking.

It is not remarkable that the town of Greenwich ſhould firſt preſent itſelf, whether we conſider its proud connexion with the metropolis; its ſituation on the river, than which nothing can impreſs foreigners with a more ſtriking idea of our progreſs in every civilized art; or the noble inſtitution of its hoſpital, majeſtic in its appearance, and the benevolent object of which is ſo widely and ſo effectually diffuſed.

According to the beſt and moſt authentic writers, Greenwich received its name from its ſituation on the banks of the river. In Saxon it was *Grenawic*, or the Green Town; in Latin, *Grenovicum*. In the reign of Henry V. it was a mean fiſhing town, but was in great eſteem for the ſecure harbour it afforded to ſhips. It was in this place that for four ſucceeding years the Daniſh fleet remained, whilſt their army occupied the eminence above.

Greenwich is in the hundred of Blackheath; its manor was in poſſeſſion of the monks till the time of Henry the Eighth, who annexed it to the crown, where it remained till the time of Charles the Firſt: it was then ſequeſtered for the benefit of the ſtate; but at the Reſtoration it reverted to the crown, with which it has ſince continued. To enter minutely into its hiſtory till it became a royal reſidence, can be neither intereſting nor important. The firſt period on record of its having been honoured by containing a palace for our princes was about the year 1300. From that time till the reign of Charles the Second it was the ſcene of royal magnificence and courtly ſplendour. The palace was extended and improved by Humphrey duke of Glouceſter—Edward the Fourth added to its grandeur. In this place Henry the Eighth was born, and it was ever the favourite abode of this great and powerful ſovereign.

Greenwich was alſo the birth-place of queen Mary and her ſiſter Elizabeth, and

the latter princeſs particularly preferred it as the place of her ſummer reſidence. The laſt of our monarchs who inhabited Greenwich palace was Charles the Firſt, though it was occaſionally viſited by the Protector, and, after him, by Charles the Second. It was in the reign of William and Mary that the plan of converting the palace into an hoſpital for diſabled ſeamen firſt originated. This was progreſſively extended, meliorated, and improved, till it became what it now remains, a truly magnificent monument of national liberality and benevolence.

This noble inſtitution provides for the relief and ſupport of ſeamen for the royal navy, who from wounds or other circumſtances are unqualified for farther ſervice at ſea, or unable to maintain themſelves. But its benevolence does not terminate here—there is proviſion alſo for the maintenance of the widows of ſuch ſeamen, and the education of the children of ſuch as ſhall be killed or diſabled in the ſervice of their country. The following account of this noble edifice is ſuccinct and abridged, but we truſt it will be found ſufficiently comprehenſive.

Greenwich Hoſpital.—This noble inſtitution was founded, not on the ruins of a royal palace, but has by gradual ſteps grown out of one, till it has eclipſed, both in extent and external magnificence, many of thoſe at preſent exiſting, and which are now occupied by royal or imperial tenants. On its ſite originally ſtood the ancient royal palace called *Placentia*, built by Humphrey duke of Glouceſter, in the reign of Henry the Sixth. It was taken by Edward the Fourth, who depoſed that monarch, into the hands of the crown, where it remained, having experienced a variety of additions under different ſovereigns, till the reign of king Charles the Second. Being then found extremely decayed by time, and the want of neceſſary repairs, it was diſmantled ſoon after the Reſtoration, and the erection of one on a more magnificent plan undertaken. It remained, however, with many other buildings of the ſame æra and deſcription, in a very unfiniſhed ſtate, at the acceſſion of king James the Second, under whom every thing of this nature continued dormant. It was by royal grant from king William and queen Mary, bearing date on the 20th of October, in the ſixth year of their reign, conveyed to certain commiſſioners, of whom the great officers of ſtate formed a part, for the purpoſe of being converted to the noble purpoſe, which in a more enlarged extent it has ever ſince been applied to.

Its original foundation extended only to the reception of three or four hundred ſeamen; the alterations and additions to the original building neceſſary to this purpoſe

poſe were completed under the ſuperintendance of Sir Chriſtopher Wren, in the year 1698, and now conſtitute the north-weſt pile or building of the four which at the preſent period collectively form this ſtupendous erection. Scarce was this firſt part of the noble undertaking carried into execution, when, to the great honour of national liberality, a building ſince called queen Anne's was planned and undertaken. It is oppoſite to that erected by king Charles, and preſerves in its principal fronts, the weſt and north, the ſame exterior.

The foundation of a third pile called king William's, was laid nearly at the ſame time on the ſouth-weſt. It contains that ſuperb apartment, the great dining or painted hall, the decorations of which were executed by Sir James Thornhill, and was originally deſigned by the architect Sir Chriſtopher Wren, for the uſe of the officers and men. It has, however, long ceaſed to be applied to that purpoſe, the men dining in ſpacious halls on the lower ſtory, and the officers in their own apartments.

In 1699 the foundation of the eaſtern colonnade, attached to that quadrangle ſince called queen Mary's building, was laid; and without entering into a tedious recapitulation of dates, the whole building was finiſhed, nearly in its preſent form, about the year 1752. Conſiderable ſums have at different times been bequeathed and given by various perſons for this highly honourable purpoſe, and the deficiency has been made good either by parliamentary grants, or the appropriated rents and profits of eſtates forfeited by families of rank heretofore engaged in rebellion. Among theſe, the poſſeſſions of the unfortunate earl of Derwentwater form a conſpicuous and principal part.

The hoſpital, thus divided into four diſtinct piles, each of which forms an oblong ſquare with its fronts outwards, contains, by ſome recent additions and internal improvements, derived particularly from the erection of an infirmary, independent of the hoſpital itſelf, nearly two thouſand four hundred penſioners, excluſive of their different officers, neceſſary as well for their government as their comfort.

To the northward, adjoining to the river Thames, is the principal or grand ſquare, the width nearly 280 feet, bounded on the north by the grand parade or wall waſhed by the river; on the eaſt and weſt, by the grand fronts of the quadrangles, named in honour of king Charles and queen Anne; and on the ſouth by a flight of ſteps extending the whole length, in conſequence of their more elevated

ſituation

ſituation between king William and queen Mary's buildings, as well as in a ſmall degree by the eaſt and weſt corners of thoſe ſtupendous piles.

In the centre is the ſtatue of his late majeſty king George the Second in white marble, executed by Ryſbrack, and highly eſteemed by all judges of ſculpture. Upon the whole, the magnificent appearance of the different buildings when viewed on the north ſide from the Thames, has never in any part of the world been hitherto equalled in a ſimilar erection. The annexed view, taken from the north ſide of the Thames, will give ſome idea of the magnitude of the building.

On the 1ſt of January 1779, a moſt dreadful fire, occaſioned by cauſes never hitherto known, or at leaſt made public, broke out in a part of queen Mary's building, as is generally ſuppoſed, above the chapel. By the greateſt exertions it was in a few hours got under, though not till it had entirely conſumed the chapel itſelf, and as many of the adjacent wards as were capable of containing nearly five hundred penſioners. The former erection had been finiſhed with all the elegance then in uſe, under the direction of Mr. Ripley. The repairs and reconſtruction of the preſent, were conducted by Mr. Stuart. It is in length 111 feet, in breadth 52, ſo that one thouſand penſioners may at any time attend divine ſervice, excluſive of the directors, and different officers. It is finiſhed in a moſt ſuperb and expenſive ſtyle, very different from the original building. The paintings which adorn the walls repreſent the principal events in the life of Jeſus Chriſt, together with the effigies of the Apoſtles and Evangeliſts, which are executed in *chiaro oſcuro*, by Catton, de Bruyn, Milburne, and Rebecca; the altar-piece is painted by Weſt, and repreſents the preſervation of St. Paul from ſhipwreck. This magnificent picture is 25 feet high and 14 wide; and on each ſide of it are two columns; the ſhafts of Scagliola, executed by Richter, in imitation of Sienna; the capitals and baſes of ſtatuary marble: theſe are anſwered by four others at the weſt end, two on each ſide the organ-loft, and jointly appear to ſupport the ceiling, which is arched. This building was completed, and opened for divine ſervice on the 2d of September 1789.

Reviewing this extenſively charitable foundation, the eye of the caſual and almoſt inattentive paſſenger or ſtranger, is captivated and aſtoniſhed at the magnificent exterior, the philanthropic heart of the benevolent friend of poverty is warmed and animated by the ſubſtantial relief afforded to the indigent, and the feelings of every well-wiſher to his country are raiſed to the higheſt pitch on reflecting that



E. Dayes del.t

P. Audinet sculp.t

VIEW of GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

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that ſo noble an inſtitution has been founded for the comfort and relief of its beſt and nobleſt defenders.

The funds for the maintenance of the individuals of this great charity, as well as for the general improvement and extenſion of the buildings, are large and ſufficient. To ſpecify them in detail would occupy too large a portion of a work intended rather to give general information, than for minute and particular inveſtigation. They conſiſt of national contributions and private benefactions. The regulation of the hoſpital is veſted in the governor and a council of officers appointed by the admiralty. The preſent governor is the right hon. lord Hood, whoſe ſalary is 1000*l.* a year: there is alſo a lieutenant-governor, who at preſent is William Locker, Eſq. with a ſalary of 400*l.* a year.

In the burial-ground belonging to the hoſpital the celebrated Tindal was interred. His tranſlation of Rapin's Hiſtory of England, and continuation of it to the end of the reign of George I., entitle him to reſpectful mention.

Greenwich-park.—This favourite reſort of the gay and affluent, as well as of the humble and the mean, as it cannot be viſited without delight, we ſhall not paſs over without praiſe. The agreeable ſcenery which it contains within itſelf, and the truly enchanting proſpects which it exhibits from its eminences, cannot fail of infuſing a balm over the hearts of thoſe who retire to it from the toil, and care, and ſmoke of the metropolis. It belongs to the crown, and contains 188 acres. The ranger's lodge, an elegant and convenient edifice, has, we know not from what cauſe, been long uninhabited. There has been no ranger appointed ſince the death of lady Catharine Pelham. The other ſtructure in the park is the Obſervatory, founded by Charles the Second. Here formerly ſtood a caſtle or tower, which in the reign of queen Elizabeth was called MIREFLEUR, and which in the troubleſome times of 1642 was called Greenwich-caſtle, and fortified as a place of ſtrength.

The motive of founding this Obſervatory was highly honourable to the monarch; for it was excited by the hope of diſcovering the longitude, by aſcertaining the places of the fixed ſtars; it was built in 1675. The firſt aſtronomer royal was Flamſteed, from whom this edifice has been denominated Flamſteed-houſe. Flamſteed was ſucceeded by men of equal eminence with himſelf; as a proof of which it is only neceſſary to mention the names of Halley, Bradley, and Maſkelyne. The Obſervatory is nobly provided with aſtronomical apparatus; the obſervations and

diſcoveries are every year publiſhed, and an annual viſitation is made here by a deputation from the Royal Society. The annexed view of London was taken from the Obſervatory.

The park preſents to the eye a noble and delightful area, two ſides of which, from the river to Blackheath, are filled with manſions of individuals of rank and opulence. The effect of its views, which exceed deſcription, may be partially ſeen in Mr. Boydell's magnificent work of the rivers of Great Britain. The river is here ſtrikingly bold and deep, and oppoſite is the Iſle of Dogs, which we mention merely to explain the occaſion of its appellation, which is not generally known.—When Greenwich was a royal reſidence, the ſpot was appropriated for the king's hounds, and thence its name.

Blackheath, in the vicinity of Greenwich, and at the ſummit of its park, is a ſpot alike pleaſant and ſalutary, and as ſuch is crowded with houſes of the nobility, gentry, and more opulent tradeſmen; the principal of theſe are the manſions of the duke of Buccleugh, and Cheſterfield-houſe. Lord Cheſterfield, the polite author of the letters which go by his name, reſided here occaſionally for ſeveral years. The houſe is now occupied by Mr. Hulſe, who poſſeſſes a collection of very valuable pictures.

Blackheath is alſo famous in the hiſtory of our country. It was on this ſpot that the Danes encamped, whilſt their fleet lay beneath them. Here alſo the Roman road from London to Dover was conſtructed, which is evinced by various antiquities which have at different times been found, as well as by many tumuli which are ſtill to be diſtinguiſhed.

Upon Blackheath the Corniſh rebels were defeated by Henry VII. It has alſo at various periods of our hiſtory exhibited ſplendid ſcenes of triumphal entries, encampments, and pageantries.

The pariſh church of Greenwich was one of thoſe built in the reign of queen Anne. It is a very handſome and elegant ſtructure, and contains many curious, and ſome ſplendid monuments. It is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and in the patronage of the crown. The preſent vicar is Andrew Burnaby, D. D. who ſucceeded Doctor Hinchliffe, the late biſhop of Peterborough.

The number of houſes in Greenwich is ſaid to be 1850, which, allowing five perſons to each, makes the population amount to 9250.

DEPT-



VIEW of LONDON from GREENWICH PARK.

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DEPTFORD.

IN ſtrict propriety, Deptford ſhould have been noticed before Greenwich; but if the greater importance of this latter place be not allowed a ſufficient excuſe for this trifling deviation, we may add, that the whole of Deptford does not lie within the county of Kent—a part of it is in the county of Surry.

The part of Deptford which lies within this county is, as well as Greenwich, in the hundred of Blackheath.

Its ancient name was Depeford, which ſufficiently explains itſelf. It is contiguous to the high road to Dover, and at the diſtance of four miles from London. In 1730 it was by act of parliament divided into the two pariſhes of St. Nicholas and St. Paul, of which we ſhall ſpeak in their order; firſt obſerving, that among the inhabitants this place is diſtinguiſhed by the names of Upper and Lower Deptford.

The pariſh of St. Nicholas is the ſmaller of the two, but its population ſeems progreſſively increaſing. The ſociety of the Trinity-houſe was firſt eſtabliſhed here, the object and utility of which are ſufficiently notorious. The hall in which the brethren formerly held their meetings was pulled down in 1787: a new and ſumptuous edifice has lately been erected for their uſe upon Tower-hill. The object of the ſociety, in a country like England, is ſo generally beneficial, that the name of the founder certainly deſerves to be commemorated. This was Sir Thomas Spert, who was comptroller of the navy to Henry VIII., in whoſe reign Deptford was a ſmall and contemptible fiſhing town. It very ſoon, however, roſe in importance, and conſequent population, by the eſtabliſhment of the royal dock-yard, which alſo took place in the commencement of the ſame reign.

This dock conſiſts of one large and ſpacious ſtore-houſe, to which a long range of ſmaller buildings have been added within the laſt twenty years. The whole together does not occupy a ſpace of much leſs extent than thirty acres. There are two wet docks, two maſt-ponds, three ſlips, and about twenty forges. There is no commiſſioner at this yard; but the buſineſs of it is conducted entirely by the Navy board; and many of our largeſt ſhips have been built here.

This pariſh of St. Nicholas alſo contains two hoſpitals, which are under the patronage and protection of the brethren of the Trinity-houſe. The old hoſpital is cloſe to the church; it was repaired and extended in 1788, and at preſent

conſiſts of twenty-five chambers. The other hoſpital ſtands in Church-ſtreet. The individuals receiving benefit from theſe two charities are aged maſters of ſhips, decayed pilots, or the widows of both. The corporation of the Trinity-houſe have an annual meeting at one or other of theſe hoſpitals every Trinity Monday.

In this pariſh alſo is an excellent charity-ſchool, at which no leſs than fifty boys and as many children of the other ſex are educated, and afterwards placed out in trade. The ſchool is for the benefit of the two pariſhes of St. Nicholas and St. Paul.

Deptford is alſo famous for a valuable manufacture of earthen-ware, which employs a very conſiderable number of hands of all ages and both ſexes. It is called Deptford ware.

The pariſh of St. Nicholas is a vicarage; the patronage of which is in the Drakes of Agmondeſham. The number of houſes at preſent in the pariſh amount to 1200; the number of inhabitants about 6000.

Deptford, St. Paul's.—This is the new pariſh, according to the diviſion which took place in 1730. There is nothing more remarkable in this pariſh than its very ſurpriſing increaſe of population. It at preſent conſiſts of no leſs than 2300 houſes, and conſequently, according to the uſual mode of calculation, contains 11,500 inhabitants.

The Victualling-houſe, which anciently bore the appellation of the Red-houſe, and which always contains prodigious quantities of proviſions, as well as of ſtores of various kinds, ſtands in this pariſh. The other buildings of any importance are the Telegraph erected by government in 1795; a private dock-yard, which belongs to Sir Frederick Evelyn; a very elegant church, which contains many beautiful monuments; and meeting-houſes belonging to diſſenters of different deſcriptions.

The church is a rectory, not charged in the king's books. According to Ecton, the firſt preſentation was in the gift of the crown. The laſt perſon who preſented was John Thornton, Eſq. in 1775.

Almoſt the whole of the firſt-mentioned pariſh of St. Nicholas is covered with houſes; whereas the pariſh of St. Paul's is ſaid to contain ſeveral hundred acres of arable land, a great proportion of which is occupied by gardeners, who conſtantly ſupply the London markets with vegetables of every kind.

It is not preciſely aſcertained what portion of Deptford is claimed by the county of Surry; we have, therefore, contented ourſelves with the general mention of the fact, that part of it lies in Kent, and part in Surry.

CHARL-

CHARLTON.

THIS village is alſo in the hundred of Blackheath; it is ſeven miles from London, and two from Greenwich. The manor-houſe is of great antiquity, and is mentioned in this place becauſe it is the reſidence of the princeſs of Wales in her abſence from Carleton-houſe; and ſorry we are to ſay, that it is very inadequate to her pretenſions, whether we conſider her rank, her accompliſhments, or her virtues.

In this place a great fair was anciently held, called Horn-fair, which is ſtill kept up, though with ſome deviation from its former ſolemnities.

The noble manſion erected by Sir Gregory Page, conſiſting of a grand centre and two wings, with elegant colonnades, and embelliſhed with a collection of paintings of conſiderable value, was alſo in this pariſh. It was called Wrickles-marſh-houſe. Part has been taken down and ſold in lots, part ſtill remains in melancholy ruin.

There are about 100 houſes in the pariſh, and 500 inhabitants: and the population continues to increaſe.

It is a rectory, the patronage of which is in private hands. The church is a plain and ſimple ſtructure, in the chancel of which are ſome neat monuments.

There is a charitable erection in the pariſh of Charlton which deſerves particular mention: this is Morden-college. The founder was Sir John Morden; and its object was a place of retirement for tradeſmen of the more reſpectable kind, who had been unfortunate in buſineſs. The eſtates appropriated to the maintenance of theſe rather exceed, than fall ſhort of 1600*l.* a year. It was originally intended for Turkey merchants; but as there is proviſion for thirty individuals, this rule is not ſtrictly obſerved: all, however, muſt be members of the eſtabliſhed church, and not leſs than fifty years of age. Their allowance in money is about 25*l.* a year; their other advantages, excluſive of their apartments, cannot be eſtimated at leſs than ten more. The chapel is a plain, neat building, decorated with the portraits of Sir John and Lady Morden. The patrons of this charity are the Turkey company; but in caſe this company ſhould ceaſe to exiſt, the truſtees are to be ſelected from the right honourable the Eaſt India company.

The manor of Kidbrooke is alſo in the pariſh of Charlton. It was formerly the reſidence of different noble families. It is now the property of lord Eliot, and the manor-houſe has been converted into a farm.

WOOLWICH.

WOOLWICH lies to the eaſtward of Charlton, and is alſo in the hundred of Blackheath. Etymologiſts are much divided with reſpect to its name. It is ſometimes in very old charters written Hulviz, which has ſucceſſively undergone the variations of Wollewic, Wulwicke, and Woolwich.

The town is agreeably ſituated on the banks of the river, and is at the diſtance of nine miles from the metropolis. It is not a little ſingular that part of this pariſh lies on oppoſite banks of the Thames, yet the whole is ſaid to be in the county of Kent.

The dock-yard which has been eſtabliſhed at Woolwich, and is ſtill progreſſively improving, and to which the place owes its principal importance, is ſaid by ſome writers to be the moſt ancient in the kingdom. It appears from biſhop Gibſon's Additions to Camden's Britannia, that the famous ſhip called Great Harry was built at this place in the reign of queen Mary. This dock-yard is nearly of the ſame extent with that of Deptford, and regulated in the ſame manner, that is, not by a reſident commiſſioner, but immediately by the Navy board. There is alſo a very large and extenſive rope-walk; and, what muſt by no means be paſſed over without particular mention, a gun-wharf, which formerly ſtood in the market-place, but is now at the Warren. At this Warren all kinds of artillery are both caſt and proved, and in peaceable times the guns of our men of war are here alſo depoſited.

A very honourable and uſeful eſtabliſhment for the education of young men who are intended for the engineer ſervice, has long exiſted here. The ſtudents have the title of cadets, and are uſually of the more reſpectable families. Barracks have been erected here by government for the accommodation of the regiment of artillery, of which Woolwich is the head-quarters.

Many of our largeſt ſhips of war, from the time of Elizabeth to the preſent period, have been built at Woolwich; one in particular, called after that ſovereign, is mentioned by Strype in his Annals. Another built in 1637, is deſcribed with every circumſtance of minute particularity by Haywood the comedian. The following extract is curious enough to deſerve inſertion:—"She was one thou-"ſand ſix hundred and thirty-ſeven tons burden, beſides tonnage; one hundred "and twenty-eight feet long, and forty-eight feet broad; from the fore end of "the beak head to the after end of the ſtern, one hundred and fifty-two feet; from

"the

" the bottom of the keel to the top of the lantern, ſeventy-ſix feet. She had five " lanterns, of which the biggeſt would hold ten perſons, ſtanding upright; three " fluſh-decks, a forecaſtle, half-deck, quarter-deck, and round-houſe. The lower " tier had ſixty ports, the middle one, thirty, the third twenty-ſix, the forecaſtle " twelve, half-deck fourteen, and as many more within, beſides ten pieces of " chaſe ordnance forward, and ten right aft, as well as many loop-holes in the " cabin for muſkets. She had alſo eleven anchors, one of which weighed four " thouſand four hundred pounds. This royal ſhip was curiouſly carved and gilt " with gold; and the Dutch, from the ſlaughter and havoc her cannon made " among them, called her the Golden Devil."

Of 650 acres which the pariſh of Woolwich is ſaid to contain, there are no leſs than 380 on the coaſt of Eſſex. It is probable that ſome diſtinguiſhed perſonage obtained a grant of the whole in remoter times, and cauſed it to be united to his own county; ſomething ſimilar to this having taken place with regard to the epiſcopal palace of the biſhops of Wincheſter ſituated in Chelſea.

The population of Woolwich has long been increaſing. The number of houſes amounts to 1200: the number of inhabitants conſiderably exceeds 6000.

The pariſh church is a plain neat building, which in the inſide is of Grecian architecture. It was one of the fifty built according to act of parliament in the reign of queen Anne.

It is a rectory, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and patronage of the biſhop. The preſent rector is the Rev. George Andrew Thomas, nephew of doctor Thomas, the late biſhop.

There are ſeveral meeting-houſes in Woolwich, belonging to the different ſects of preſbyterians, anabaptiſts, and methodiſts. There is alſo a charity-ſchool for girls, and an alms-houſe for poor widows, under the patronage of the Goldſmiths' company.

The largeſt ſhips may ride in ſafety near the town, the river in this place being remarkably deep, and at high water near a mile broad. Before we leave this place, it is neceſſary to obſerve, that hulks for convicts are here ſtationed. Theſe miſerable people are employed in heaving ballaſt, and other laborious occupations; and often, when the period of their puniſhment is at an end, return to their former habits and companions with increaſed obduracy of principle, and diminiſhed terror of the conſequences of their crimes.

ELTHAM.

ELTHAM.

THIS place merits more than common attention, both on account of its antiquity, and becauſe it was anciently a reſidence of the ſovereigns of England.

In remoter records it is denominated Eltham Mandeville, becauſe in part it was the property of the family of that name. After the decapitation of Charles the Firſt, the manor of Eltham was ſeized by the parliament, but at the Reſtoration it came into the hands of Sir John Shaw, and in his family it ſtill continues.

The ruins of this once magnificent palace are ſtill reſpectable, and ſerve to convey a ſtrong impreſſion of the ravages of time. In this place reſided Henry the Third, Edward the Second, Edward the Third, Richard the Second, with a great many of their ſucceſſors to the time of Elizabeth. The adjoining park was very ſpacious, and was ſaid to contain 600 acres, well ſtocked with deer, and from which timber to the value of 5000*l.* was cut before the year 1660. In the time of Henry the Seventh, we learn from a record in the office of arms, that the king was conſtantly reſident in this palace, and dined in the great hall. In this hall none were allowed to dine but the officers of arms, on account of the plague which at that time prevailed in the metropolis. When the ſecond courſe was ſerved up, it was preceded by a herald, who proclaimed the king's titles. At this palace alſo, a king of Armenia, named Leo, who had been expelled from his dominions by the Turks, was entertained with ſplendid hoſpitality by Richard the Second.

To the manor of Eltham have been annexed the manor of Henle or Henleys, the manors of Weſt Horne, Eaſt Horne, and Corbye-hall.

The church is a plain building, with a ſpire, and contains many curious monuments; among the moſt remarkable of which is one to the memory of Ann, wife of Richard Owen, D. D. vicar, who died in 1653, which has this concluſion :— "*In ſolatium fati quantulumcunque poni tandem curavit hoc marmor tot ſummæ ſpei* "*liberis ſuperſtes pater, expulſus hinc olim rebellibus, idem Ricardus Owen, S. T. P.* "*annos numerans* 73, *ipſe brevi ſecuturus. Eadem et te ſors manet, lector: vigila;* "*neſcis quâ horâ.*"

In the church-yard is the tomb of that pious and excellent prelate Dr. Horne, biſhop of Norwich. Here alſo was buried that gallant officer Sir William James, in whoſe honour his amiable widow, lady James, has erected, upon Shooter's-hill, a triangular tower of the elevation of near fifty feet; an intereſting and ſtriking object to the ſurrounding country. Another perſon alſo was here interred of no ſmall

note

note in his day, and the memory of whom is not likely ſoon to be obliterated—this is Dogget the comedian. For many years before his death he gave a coat and ſilver badge to be rowed for by ſix young watermen on the expiration of their apprentice-ſhip; and at his death he bequeathed a ſum of money to perpetuate the cuſtom.

The advowſon of the vicarage is in the hands of Sir Gregory Page Turner, and it has lately been augmented by queen Anne's bounty. The preſent vicar is the Rev. John Kennard Shaw.

The population of the pariſh ſeems to be on the increaſe; there are at preſent ſomewhat more than 240 houſes, and about 1200 inhabitants.

SOUTHEND is a hamlet in the manor of Eltham, in which is a manſion of great antiquity. Motingham, or Mottingham, belongs partly to Eltham, and partly to Chiſlehurſt; which laſt place we are induced to mention on account of a remarkable ſinking in of the earth, which happened here in 1585, and which is thus mentioned in Fuller's Worthies of England:

"On the 4th of Auguſt 1585, betimes in the morning, in the hamlet of Mot-
"tingham, in the pariſh of Eltham, the ground began to ſink in a field belonging
"to Sir Percival Hart, ſo much that three great elm trees were ſwallowed into the
"pit; and before ten of the clock no part of them could be ſeen. The compaſs
"of the hole was about eighty yards, and it was ſuddenly filled with water."

We muſt by no means conclude our account of Eltham without making ſome mention of Shooter's-hill, which is at the north-eaſt end of this pariſh, on the high road from London to Canterbury. In earlier times this was a famous haunt for robbers, nor can we truly ſay that in this reſpect modern times have much amended it.

This place probably derived its name from the circumſtance of its being a place of exerciſe for archers. We have here an opportunity of correcting an error into which Mr. Lyſons has inadvertently fallen, who makes this the ſcene of Falſtaff's merry but licentious exploit, whereas it was Gad's-hill, near Rocheſter. The road, always ſteep and difficult, was not ſo improved as to be ſecure till about the year 1739.

Upon the ſummit of this hill is a remarkable mineral ſpring, which it is ſaid that the ſevereſt froſt of our hardeſt winters has never been able to congeal. A detached account of this ſpring was publiſhed in 1673 by a writer of the name of Godbid.

It ſeems only neceſſary to add, that Eltham was in remoter times written Eald-ham, the ſignification of which is obvious at firſt ſight; *eald* meaning old, and

ham a dwelling. It is in the hundred of Blackheath, and at the diſtance of about eight miles from London. Agricultural writers aſſign to this pariſh a ſpace of about 2900 acres: of this conſiderably more than half is arable. The ſoil is unequal, being in ſome parts gravel, in others clay; a large portion alſo is woodland. There were anciently annual fairs, and a market every Tueſday; but theſe have all been diſcontinued. It has the reputation of being a healthy ſituation, and is much frequented, on account of its pleaſantneſs, by viſitors from town.

L E E.

THE next place which preſents itſelf to our notice is Lee. This is an agreeable and retired village in the hundred of Blackheath, and at the diſtance of ſix miles from London. Its Latin name is Laga, which means a retired or ſheltered ſpot, an appellation in the preſent inſtance not unhappily applied.

There are not many particulars annexed to the village of ſufficient importance to detain the reader.

The church is a very ancient building, and ſeems to call aloud to be repaired, or rather rebuilt. It is a rectory, and in the gift of the crown, and at preſent is held, *in commendam*, by Dr. Courtenay, biſhop of Exeter. Among other tombs in the pariſh church and adjoining cemetery, are thoſe of the celebrated aſtronomer Dr. Halley, of that eminent citizen Sir Samuel Fludyer, and of Parſons, the humourous comedian. We are ſomewhere informed that Purchas, famous in the annals of our literary hiſtory for writing his Collection of Voyages, was an inhabitant of this pariſh.

At preſent there are not more than 50 houſes, and about 300 inhabitants in Lee; but its convenient diſtance, and agreeable ſituation, promiſe a ſpeedy increaſe of population; and we obſerve the foundation of ſome new buildings already in progreſs. The extent of the pariſh is comprehended in 1060 acres, or thereabouts; which are almoſt equally divided between arable and paſture.

At the weſt extremity of Lee are a number of alms-houſes, founded by Charles Boone, Eſq. and Mary his wife, and left to the patronage of the Merchant Taylors' company. It is ordered by the donor that the rector of the pariſh ſhould be chaplain, with a ſalary of 10*l.* a year; but as the preſent rector is a biſhop, he probably condeſcends neither to the duty nor the ſalary.

LEWISHAM.

THE name of this place is a Saxon combination, and is formed of *leſwe* or *leſew*, which ſignifies a manſion among meadows, and of *ham*, the meaning of which is ſufficiently obvious. This is the laſt village in the hundred of Blackheath, and is about ſix miles from London.

Lewiſham was given by the niece of king Alfred to the abbey of St. Peter, at Ghent. This grant was confirmed by William the Conqueror; but in the reign of Henry the Eighth it ſhared the fate of ſimilar endowments. The manor paſſed through various hands; it came, with the rectory and appendages, to admiral George Legge, who lived at the concluſion of Charles the Second's reign, and who was afterwards created baron Dartmouth of Dartmouth: with this family it ſtill remains.

CATFORD MANOR forms alſo a part of this pariſh. This, in remoter times, belonged to a family of the name of Abot; from whom it has variouſly deſcended, till finally it reſts in the poſſeſſion of the right hon. lord Eliot.

There are other various premiſes, ſuch as Brockley-farm, and Billingham; but they are of leſs note.

The principal thing to attract the notice of travellers is the extraordinary length of this village; it extends nearly to the length of a mile. The pariſh is of large extent; and the common which belongs to it on Blackheath on one ſide, and on Sydenham on another, is little leſs than 1000 acres.

The church is a new and handſome ſtructure. It was erected in 1774, and is adorned with various elegant monuments; among the more conſpicuous of which are thoſe of the Petrie family, and of the pious and learned Dr. Stanhope, who was vicar of this pariſh for a period little ſhort of forty years. The patronage is with the Dartmouth family, and the name of the preſent vicar is the Rev. Henry Jones, M. A.

The pariſh regiſter contains ſome amuſing anecdotes, and we are informed among other whimſical incidents, that in 1791 a woman was here interred, whoſe coffin was ſix feet ten inches long, three feet five inches wide, and two feet ſix inches deep. Here alſo was buried biſhop Duppa, and Mr. Richard Buckley, to whoſe villa, as it appears from the Progreſſes of queen Elizabeth, that fanciful princeſs went a maying on May-day 1602.

There is an excellent free-ſchool eſtabliſhed in this place, under the patronage of the Leatherſellers' company. The maſter of this ſeminary muſt be examined and approved by the reſpective maſters of Weſtminſter, St. Paul's, and Merchant Taylors' ſchools: the ſchool is with a ſeeming impropriety denominated the Blackheath Free-ſchool.

Sydenham is a hamlet belonging to this pariſh, which anciently was called *Cypenham*. This place has of late years increaſed very conſiderably, both in population and wealth, which is to be imputed to the fortunate diſcovery of ſome mineral ſprings. A diſſertation on the virtues of theſe waters was publiſhed by a writer of the name of John Peter in 1681. They appear greatly to reſemble the Epſom waters in quality, being of a gently purgative nature. They generally go by the name of Dulwich wells, from their vicinity to that place; where, however, another mineral ſpring of ſimilar qualities has ſince been diſcovered. This ſpring is the property of the earl of Dartmouth, who has an elegant manſion on Blackheath, where his lordſhip occaſionally reſides.

There is a mill in Lewiſham for the purpoſe of making cloth in a new and particular manner, which we believe has anſwered the expectations formed of it. There is alſo a muſtard mill. Formerly, by the interpoſition of lord Dartmouth, a market was held twice in the week on Blackheath, a part of which is in this pariſh. Theſe are now aboliſhed, and in their room there are two fairs for cattle, one in May, the other in October.

The river Ravenſbourne runs through this pariſh, and nearly from ſouth to north.

Lewiſham, which is an agreeable and cheerful ſpot, and in which are many elegant manſions and opulent inhabitants, concludes our account of the hundred of Blackheath.

Hundred of Bromley and Beckenham.

THIS hundred is in Doomſday-book denominated the Hundred of Bromley; there ſpelt Bromlei. The name of Beckenham was added to it in the twentieth year of the reign of Edward III. Beckenham, it muſt be obſerved, is not wholly in the county of Kent; a part of it lies in Surry.

The hundred is divided into the two pariſhes of Bromley and Beckenham, of which we ſhall ſpeak in order as they ſtand—and firſt of

BROMLEY.

THE Saxon name of Bromley was Brom-leag; the meaning of which is a ſpot where broom grows; and, indeed, it well deſerves its name; for there is not even the ſmalleſt uncultivated place in the neighbourhood of the town, on which broom is not found in abundance.

The firſt thing which claims notice in our account of Bromley, is the biſhop's manſion. The biſhop of Rocheſter was formerly lord paramount of the hundred of Bromley, in conjunction with the ſovereign, and had a reſidence in the town at a period very diſtant. The old palace was at different times repaired and adorned by biſhops Atterbury and Wilcocks; but the late biſhop, Dr. Thomas, pulled it entirely down, and erected a plain houſe of brick. In the grounds which belong to the epiſcopal houſe, is a curious medicinal ſpring, which has long gone by the name of St. Blaze's well. It was formerly of conſiderable note; for a chapel ſtood near it, in which whoever performed their devotions on the three holydays of Pentecoſt, were entitled to certain remittances of penance. After the Reformation, the chapel fell to ruins, and St. Blaze was almoſt forgotten; but in 1756 a ſecond diſcovery was made of the water, and an account of its chalybeate virtues publiſhed by a ſurgeon, whoſe name was Thomas Reynolds.

The biſhops of Rocheſter appear to have been lords of the manor of Bromley from a period ſo remote in our hiſtory as 1076, and indeed before. It was beſtowed upon the dioceſan by Ethelbert, king of Kent; it was again taken away by Ethelred the ſon of Ethelbert; and after the conqueſt recovered to the ſee by the interpoſition of archbiſhop Lanfranc.

The different premiſes in the pariſh of Bromley, which ſeem to require notice, are what is called the manor of Simpſons, the property of lord Gwydir; Freelands, the leaſe of which belongs to Thomas Raikes, Eſq.; and Bickley, where the late opulent Peter Thelluſſon, Eſq. lived and died.

The church of Bromley is a large and commodious ſtructure, having two aiſles, and containing ſome very ancient and curious monuments. Different biſhops of Rocheſter have been here interred: Elizabeth, the wife of Dr. Johnſon, alſo lies here, over whoſe tomb is the following epitaph written by the Doctor:

" *Hic conduntur reliquiæ Elizabethæ antiqua Jarviſiorum gente, Peatlingæ*
" *apud Leiceſtrienſes ortæ, formoſæ, cultæ, ingenioſæ, piæ, uxoris primis nuptiis*

" *Henrici Porter, ſecundis Samuelis Johnſon, qui multum amatam denique defletam*
" *hoc lapide contexit. Obiit Londini, menſe Mart. A. D.* 1753."

Dr. Hawkeſworth, the elegant author of the Adventurer, and of many other works, lived at Bromley, and was interred in the church. With this gentleman Dr. Johnſon frequently reſided, and at his houſe many of the moſt excellent papers of the Rambler were compoſed. Maundrel, the celebrated traveller, whoſe intereſting account of his Journey from Aleppo to Jeruſalem is in ſuch deſerved eſtimation, was formerly curate of Bromley.

Bromley is an elegant town, increaſing daily in population and wealth. There are at preſent more than 360 houſes, and not leſs than 1800 inhabitants. Many opulent merchants and gentlemen reſide in this town and its vicinity; conſequently its market, which is held weekly, on a Thurſday, is much frequented, and well provided. But before we take leave of Bromley, it will be indiſpenſable to make honourable mention of its moſt excellent charity, entitled,

Bromley College.

This inſtitution was founded here by Warner, biſhop of Rocheſter, in 1637. Its object is the maintenance of twenty widows, whoſe huſbands muſt have been members of the eſtabliſhed church, and diſtinguiſhed for their ſcrupulous adherence to orthodoxy. There is alſo a chaplain, who has an appointment of 60*l.* a year; the widows have each of them 30*l.*

The ſum bequeathed by the founder would not have been adequate to the accompliſhment of his intentions; but fortunately, ſince his death, the fund has been conſiderably increaſed by the generous contributions of different individuals. The original ſum left for this benevolent purpoſe was 450*l. per annum.* In addition to this, the executors of the donor's will, Sir Philip Warwick and lord chief juſtice Bridgman, gave each 100*l.*; Dr. Plume alſo left 100*l.*; archbiſhop Tenniſon, 100 guineas; Mr. Wilcocks, ſon of the biſhop, encloſed it with a wall at no trifling expenſe. Mrs. Wolfe alſo, mother of the gallant general Wolfe, left 500*l.* for the expreſs purpoſe of putting the college in repair. Two gentlemen, who were brothers, and whoſe names were Hetherington, were great benefactors, to the amount of 2000*l.*; and Dr. Pearce bequeathed no leſs than 5000*l.* Old South Sea annuities.

The chaplain muſt belong to Magdalen college, Oxford; at which place biſhop Warner

Warner himſelf was educated. His ſalary has lately been increaſed by the intereſt of 200*l.* in the 3 *per cents.* left by the late chaplain, Mr. Bagſhaw.

There are fourteen truſtees, of whom ſeven are official, and ſeven elective. The official truſtees are, his grace the archbiſhop of Canterbury, the biſhops of London and Rocheſter, the archdeacon and chancellor of the dioceſe, the dean of St. Paul's, and the dean of the arches.

But Bromley has alſo to boaſt of another uſeful and important inſtitution, which is a charitable ſeminary, where thirteen boys, and an equal number of girls, are clothed and educated. The funds for the maintenance of the ſchool are derived, partly from annual ſubſcriptions and a charity ſermon, and partly from the intereſt of 2000*l.* ſtock in the 3 *per cents.*, given for this purpoſe by different benefactors.

We may finiſh our account of Bromley by obſerving, that it is on the Tunbridge road, and at the preciſe diſtance of ten miles from the metropolis.

BECKENHAM.

WE commence with the preſumed etymology of the name of the place about to be deſcribed. A ſtream runs through the pariſh of Beckenham, from whence it takes its appellation; *bec* ſignifying a brook, and *ham* a dwelling.

The manor of Beckenham paſſed through a variety of hands, till it came into the poſſeſſion of the St. John family. John Cator, Eſq. obtained it by purchaſe of Frederick lord Bolingbroke. This gentleman is the preſent poſſeſſor; he has built a noble manſion, which he calls Beckenham-place, and in which he reſides. There are different premiſes in this pariſh, known by the names of Fox-grove farm, Langley-park, Kent-houſe, and Kelſeys.

Fox-grove farm was the property of the family whoſe name it retains. This alſo is now the property of the above-mentioned John Cator, Eſq.

The proprietor of Langley-park is the right hon. lord Gwydir; he inherits the place by deſcent from Jones Raymond, Eſq., to whom it came in ſucceſſion from Ralph Langley, who died in 1451.

Kent-houſe belongs to John Julius Angerſtein, Eſq. Formerly, and for a long period, it was the reſidence of the ancient family of the Letheulliers.

Kelſeys is alſo the property of lord Gwydir.

Beckenham church is much admired for its exceeding great neatneſs. The ſpire

is

is modern. In 1790 it received conſiderable damage in a tempeſt; but the other part of the edifice is of conſiderable antiquity. The ſpire has an agreeable effect to a ſpectator, from its being covered with pieces of wood one over another, in the manner of tiles, which are termed ſhingles. Lord Bolingbroke, when he ſold the manor, reſerved to himſelf and heirs the right of preſenting to the rectory: this, however, we learn he has ſince alienated. The church is in the deanery of Dartford and dioceſe of Rocheſter, and conſecrated to St. George. It contains ſome ancient and curious monuments. The family of the Styles of Langley is of great antiquity, and various achievements and carved coats of arms belonging to them are found in different parts of the church. The ſouth aiſle in particular was entirely built by Oliver Style, and here was the family place of interment. But we ſhould ill deſerve the commendation of the reader, if we omitted to tranſcribe a beautiful inſcription written by Gray the poet, and to be found on the monument of Mrs. Jane Clarke:

" Lo! where this ſilent marble weeps,
A friend, a wife, a mother ſleeps;
A heart within whoſe ſacred cell
The peaceful Virtues lov'd to dwell:
Affection warm, and faith ſincere,
And ſoft humanity was there:
In agony, in death, reſign'd,
She felt the wound ſhe left behind.
Her infant image here below,
Sits ſmiling on a father's woe;
Whom what awaits, while yet he ſtrays
Along the lonely vale of days?
A pang, to ſecret ſorrow dear,
A ſigh, an unavailing tear,
Till time ſhall every grief remove,
With life, with mem'ry, and with love."

Some curious anecdotes might be extracted from the regiſter of this, and, indeed, of every other pariſh; but we are fearful of too far extending our limits. We cannot, however, forbear mentioning, that the gallant Sir Piercy Brett ſpent the latter part of his life in this pariſh, and was buried in this church. An individual of a far different kind of celebrity was alſo here interred in 1740. This was the famous Margaret Finch, who was ſtyled Queen of the Gipſies. Her majeſty was, in all reſpects, a moſt ſingular perſonage. From the habit of ſitting upon

upon the ground, with her chin upon her knees, her ſinews were rendered ſo ſtiff, that ſhe was unable to reſt in any other attitude. Inſtead of a coffin, her friends were obliged to place her dead body in a deep box of a ſquare form. Her portrait has been engraved, and may be ſeen in moſt collections. She was ſucceeded in her titles and honours by her daughter and grand-daughter, which laſt ſtill ſurvives.

The charities in this pariſh are not reſponſible to the opulence or rank of its inhabitants: and we have only to tell of three mean alms-houſes, and theſe have no endowment; and of a charity-ſchool, which depends on the too precarious produce of voluntary contribution. There is a whimſical benefaction from a gentlewoman of the name of Wragg, of fifteen pounds a year, the firſt object of which, is the keeping her own tomb in decent repair.

The population of Beckenham for the laſt three years ſeems to be ſtationary. There are from 140 to 150 houſes, and the number of inhabitants is about 700.

The ſoil of this place is clay, mixed occaſionally with gravel, and ſometimes with loam. It is principally meadow, and has but a very ſmall proportion of waſte land. The diſtance from London-bridge is about nine miles and a half.

HUNDRED OF RUXLEY.

THIS hundred lies to the north-eaſt of the hundred of Bromley, and contains fifteen pariſhes: Theſe are, 1. Cheſilhurſt or Chiſlehurſt (in part); 2. Hayes; 3. Weſt Wickham; 4. Keſton; 5. Farnborough; 6. Downe; 7. Cowdham; 8. Nockholt; 9. Chelsfield; 10. Orpington; 11. St. Mary's Cray; 12. Paul's Cray; 13. Foot's Cray; 14. North Cray, with Ruxley; 15. Bexley.—This diviſion, however, is not given as perfectly correct; for this hundred alſo contains part of the pariſhes of Chidingſtone and Hever; but not the churches of theſe two places.

CHISLEHURST.

WE ſhall take the towns above enumerated, according to the order in which they ſeverally follow, and conſequently begin with Chiſlehurſt.

This is a moſt beautiful village; the woods are ſo agreeably interſperſed with cultivated

cultivated fields, and the ſeats and manſions of opulent individuals, that a more pictureſque and intereſting ſcene cannot eaſily be found.

The name of the place is ſpelt very variouſly. It is written in all the following changes: Ciſelhyrſt, Chyſlehurſt, Chiſelhurſt, Cheſelhurſt, &c. till it becomes, by common conſent of modern times, fixed to Chiſlehurſt. The different manors in the pariſh are thoſe of Chiſlehurſt, Scadbury, Tang-court, with the ſeats of Frognal or Frogpool, and Camden-place. All the manors have paſſed through the hands of different poſſeſſors, till they have ultimately concentred in lord viſcount Sidney, who has an elegant manſion at Frognal, which he frequently honours with his reſidence.

Camden-place is of ſome celebrity. Here it was that the great antiquary William Camden wrote his Annals. It now gives a title to the noble family of Camden; but is at preſent inhabited by William Luſhington, Eſq. alderman of, and member for, the city of London.

The pariſh church is an object of ſome curioſity; it is built of flint ſtones, and has altogether a ſingular appearance. Some of the monuments which it contains are of great antiquity; one in particular, in the north-eaſt corner of the north aiſle, merits more than common attention. It is beautifully adorned with acorns, roſes, and gilt foliage; and it is conſtructed beneath two arches, which two Corinthian pillars ſupport. Within one of theſe arches is the inſcription, which we have tranſcribed:

" D. O. M.
Erected to the memorie of Sir EDMUND WALSINGHAM.
A Knight, ſometyme of worthie fame,
Lyeth buried under this ſtony bower,
Sir Edmund Walſingham was his name,
Leiutenant he was of London Tower;
Serving therein twenty-two yeares ſpace,
Continually in his prince's good grace.

The 9th of February, 1549, fully runne,
The ſoule from the body parted was,
Leaving three daughters and one ſonne,
Marie, Alis, Elliner, and Thomas;
Which Thomas, now Knight, this erected the rather,
In memory of Sir Edmund his father."

Beneath the other arch is an inſcription in Latin, a conſiderable part of which is defaced and illegible; but we learn from what remains, that it commemorates a Sir

Sir Thomas Walſingham, the ſixth of his family, who died in 1630. The great Sir Francis Walſingham was of this family.

The other monuments moſt worth attention in the church, are thoſe of Sir Philip Warwick; Sir Richard Adams, baron of the exchequer; and of Albina dutcheſs of Ancaſter. The inſcription on the tomb of Sir Philip Warwick was written by Dr. Pearce, dean of Saliſbury. It records, in ſimple language, the character and merits of Sir Philip. Chiſlehurſt had alſo the honour of producing that moſt eminent ſtateſman, Sir Nicholas Bacon, the father of Sir Francis Bacon.

Chiſlehurſt is a rectory, in the gift of the biſhop of Rocheſter. The preſent incumbent is the Rev. Mr. Wollaſton.

The population of the village ſeems in a ſtate of progreſſive increaſe. There are at preſent 200 houſes, and ſeveral more are erecting. The number of inhabitants may be computed at more than a thouſand.

There are many opulent individuals in the pariſh; but there are nevertheleſs not many charities to record. Twelve girls are clothed and educated, and a ſeparate inſtitution provides for the education of ſix boys.

We again repeat, that a more delightful ſpot than this of Chiſlehurſt is ſeldom to be found. The ſoil is principally gravel, and remarkably dry and healthy. On this account, as well as from its convenient diſtance from the metropolis, being rather leſs than twelve miles, we may venture to predict, that it will be more and more the reſort of our nobility, gentry, and opulent merchants.

HAYES.

THE next place we have to deſcribe is Hayes, a ſmall but pleaſant village; which in our more ancient books is written *Heſe*. Hayes-place, which is not far from the church, was formerly the reſidence of the great lord Chatham. This eminent man having left this place for Burton Pynſent, was uneaſy till he procured the opportunity of returning to it again. He was ſo delighted with the ſpot, that his latter days were entirely employed in improving and adorning it. After his death it paſſed from different proprietors to lord Lewiſham, eldeſt ſon of the earl of Dartmouth, who here indulges his taſte for the ſcience of botany, in which he eminently excels.

The church is plain and ſmall, without any monuments worth notice, except

one perhaps on the floor, of a Sir John Andrew, formerly rector of Hayes—over it is this inſcription:

" I beſeeche you all that paſſeth here by,
For the ſoule of Sir John Andrew that here doth lye,
Say a Pater Noſter and an Ave."

Hayes is a rectory, in the gift of the rector of Orpington. The name of the preſent incumbent is John Till, L. L. B.

The village contains about 70 houſes, and 400 inhabitants. There is a charity-ſchool, at which all the children in the pariſh are taught to read, and the girls plain work. There is alſo a whimſical contribution by Sir Samuel Lennard, of forty ſhillings annually, to be given to forty poor perſons who ſhall attend a ſermon on the anniverſary of the Popiſh Plot, which is preached at the church of Weſt Wickham.

There is a great deal of waſte land in Hayes; but it contains near a thouſand acres which are well cultivated. Its diſtance from London is twelve miles.

WEST WICKHAM.

THIS village is ſo denominated to diſtinguiſh it from two other villages of the ſame name in this county. Its etymology is probably Saxon; *wic* ſignifying a way, and *ham*, a dwelling.

The manor is the property of John Farnaby, Eſq. in right of his wife; to whom it has deſcended from various proprietors ſince it was held by Godric of Edward the Confeſſor. The court of the dutchy of Lancaſter has claims in part of this manor, and on the lands which are called Spring-park, Old-park, Frithwood, and Chamber's-grove.

The church is a plain neat ſtructure, which was rebuilt in the reign of Henry the Seventh by Sir Henry Heydon. A figure of a ſkeleton, intended to repreſent this Sir Henry, is to be ſeen ſtained on glaſs in the eaſt window of the north aiſle. A label iſſues from its mouth, upon which this inſcription is viſible: " *Ne re-*
" *miniſcaris, Domine, delicta mea, aut par* * * *."

The church is in the patronage of the lord of the manor; and the preſent incumbent is the Rev. Joſeph Faulder.

A ſingular cuſtom prevails in this place and its neighbourhood, which ſeems worth

worth recording. In Rogation week, a troop of young men run about the orchards, with a great noiſe and tumult, bawling out theſe lines:—

"Stand faſt, root; bear well, top;
God ſend us a jouling ſop;
Every twig, apple big,
Every bough, apples enow."—

For this they expect money or liquor, or both; and if diſappointed, leave the place with a curſe, expreſſed in ſome ſuch doggrel rhimes. The meaning of the word *jouling* may puzzle more profound antiquaries than we profeſs to be. Haſted's idea, that it comes from Eolus, god of the winds, is ridiculous enough; there is much more probably ſome affinity between the *jouling* of the Kent youths, and the Ule or Jule games, ſo frequent in the northern parts of this kingdom. Dr. Hammond has an opinion that it comes immediately from the Latin word *jubilum*, which means a time of feſtivity; which explanation may ſerve till ſome one ſhall point out a better.

There are about 80 houſes in Weſt Wickham, and from 4 to 500 inhabitants. The ſoil is very various, but the land is principally arable. The diſtance from London-bridge is thirteen miles.

The learned and amiable Gilbert Weſt, author of different works, long reſided at Weſt Wickham, where he was viſited by Lyttelton and Pitt; and where, as Dr. Johnſon informs us, he received that conviction which produced the Diſſertation on the Converſion of St. Paul. Mr. Weſt placed the following lines from Auſonius in a pleaſure-houſe:

"Hæc mihi nec procul urbe ſita eſt, nec prorſus ad urbem,
Ne patiar turbis, utque bonis potiar,
Et quoties mutare locum faſtigia cogunt
Tranſeo, et alternis rure vel urbe fruor." *Auſonius ad Villam.*

"Not wrapt in ſmoky London's ſulph'rous clouds,
And not far diſtant, ſtands my rural cot;
Neither obnoxious to intruding crowds,
Nor for the good and friendly too remote.

"And when too much repoſe brings on the ſpleen,
Or the gay city's idle pleaſures cloy;
Swift as my changing wiſh, I change the ſcene,
And now the country, now the town enjoy."

KESTON.

THIS place was anciently written Cheſtan, a corruption, not improbably, of Cheſterton, or the place of a camp, of which remains are ſtill viſible upon Holwood-hill.

Keſton is a village of ſmall importance, and chiefly memorable for the antiquities above mentioned, and for being the favourite retreat of the right hon. William Pitt, from the diſtractions of politics, and cares of public buſineſs. In this place he indulges himſelf in his favourite purſuits; and in the improvement of his grounds, and cultivation of his little farm, acquires new elaſticity and energy; hence he returns——

"Certare ingenio, contendere nobilitate, rerumque potiri."

The houſe itſelf is very ſmall, and, from its appearance, but little ſuited to the dignity, talents, and virtues of its owner. Mr. Pitt has, however, added one large room, which has a ſpacious bow window, looking towards the ſouth. The proſpect from the houſe is enchanting; it ſtands on a gentle eminence, and commands a view of Bromley, Norwood, Sydenham, Dulwich, Peckham, and St. Paul's: from another aſpect, the ſpectator can look from Shooter's-hill to Graveſend: and again from another point over no inconſiderable part of Eſſex. It is altogether a lovely ſpot, and juſtifies the taſte of its illuſtrious owner. The reader will ſmile at the viciſſitudes of fortune and mutability of life, on being told that the manſion,

"Where nobly penſive Pitt reclin'd and thought,"

was heretofore the reſidence of the gay, diſſipated, and licentious Mrs. Bellamy, whoſe Memoirs for a time attracted ſo much curioſity.

The manor of Keſton was one of thoſe donations which William the Conqueror beſtowed on Odo earl of Kent, his half-brother. From him, through various hands, it paſſed to the family of Lennard, with whoſe daughter it now remains.

The ancient camp above alluded to is of great extent, and almoſt two miles in circumference. So great a variety of Roman antiquities, conſiſting of coins, Roman tiles and bricks, have been dug up on the ſpot, that its origin and uſe cannot be diſputed. Horſley treats on the ſubject very much at large, and ſuppoſes it to have been the Caſtra Æſtiva, or ſummer quarters. Other writers think that this was the camp of Julius Cæſar, when the Britons fought him for the laſt time before

before he paſſed the Thames; but the opinions on this head are too various and contradictory for us to decide on a queſtion which, after all, is of no great importance to the object we have profeſſedly in view.

Keſton is a rectory, in the gift of his grace the archbiſhop of Canterbury. The church is ſmall and neat; but the pariſh does not contain any thing to juſtify the detaining our readers any longer than to inform them, that ſome have fancied Keſton to be an abbreviation of Keyſer's-town or Cæſar's-town; for the Britons always pronounced Cæſar—Kæſar.

FARNBOROUGH.

FARNBOROUGH is contiguous to Keſton eaſtward. Originally, perhaps, it was Fearnborough, or Fernborough, from the quantity of fern which ſtill ſprings up on every waſte ſpot of ground. It appears that in the reign of Henry III. Farnborough belonged to Simon de Montfort, the great earl of Leiceſter; and in 1766, Sir Edward Walpole procured a grant of the manor under the ſeal of the dutchy court of Lancaſter, the liberty of which claims over this pariſh. Farnborough-hall is the property of Sir John Dyke, and ſo is the eſtate which belongs to it. There is alſo another domain in this pariſh, of very conſiderable antiquity, which is called Tubbendens.

Farnborough is a ſmall and inconſiderable place, and its church or chapel is only an adjunct to the rectory of Chelsfield. The turnpike road from the metropolis to Sevenoaks paſſes immediately through it.

DOWNE.

DOWNE is the next village, and is ſo called from its lofty ſituation. It was originally written Dune, which means any thing high or elevated. There is ſo little to be mentioned concerning this place, that the whole which merits our notice may be compriſed in theſe few particulars.

The patronage of the church or chapel is with the rector of Hayes; and the rector of Orpington preſents both to Hayes and Downe.

Pelteys-place in this pariſh, though now only a farm-houſe, was anciently a large and magnificent manſion. There are two other premiſes, one called Downe-court, another called Palmer's-lands.

COWD-

COWDHAM.

NEITHER does this place preſent any thing particularly worth the reader's attention. We can give no light or information reſpecting the etymology of the name of this place; it is differently written, Coldham, Cudham, Codeham, and Cowdham.

There are different manors in the pariſh beſides that of Cowdham, viz. Apperfield and Bertrey: a minute diſcuſſion on theſe ſubjects, and the different hands through which they have paſſed to the preſent poſſeſſors, better ſuits the nature of a profeſſed county hiſtory, and may accordingly be found in Haſted and other writers.

The advowſon is in the crown, and the lord chancellor preſents to the vicarage, which in the king's books is valued at 13*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

NOCKHOLT.

THE pariſh next in order is Nockholt. This alſo is an obſcure and inconſiderable place. *Holt* means a wood, and *noke* is an old Engliſh word for corner, in which ſenſe, with a very little variation *(nuke)*, it is ſtill uſed in the north of England. This means, therefore, the corner of a wood, which in the preſent inſtance is peculiarly appoſite.

There are two ſmall manors in this pariſh, one called Shelleys, the other Bramptons. As to its eccleſiaſtical juriſdiction, it is a perpetual curacy, to which the rectors of Orpington preſent.

CHELSFIELD.

THIS place has been variouſly denominated Cillesfelle, Ciresfel, Cilesfield, Chellerfeld, and Chelsfield. Its origin with reſpect to name is beyond all doubt Saxon; *cile* ſignifying cold, and *feld* a field.

Beſides the manor of Chelsfield, the pariſh contains the different manors of Goddington, Hewitts, and Norſted. The village poſſeſſes nothing remarkable. The patronage of the living, which is a rectory, is veſted in the warden and fellows of All Souls' college, in Oxford.

ORPINGTON.

ORPINTUN, Orpyntone, Orpedingtune (for it is thus variouſly written in old charters), were ſeverally altered and corrupted from Dorpentum. The village lies to the north of Chelsfield, and contains, beſides the manor of Orpington, the manors of Crofton, Mayfield, and Eaſt-hall.

The manor of Orpington belongs to the family of the Dykes; Crofton is the property of St. Thomas's hoſpital, Southwark; Eaſt-hall belongs alſo to Sir John Dyke.

This is a village conſtantly increaſing in population. Within it, riſes the river Cray, which runs through the different places to which it gives its name. The archbiſhop of Canterbury preſents to the rectory; the rector preſents to the vicarage.

This is one of the places where queen Elizabeth was magnificently received and feaſted. She arrived here on the 22d of July 1573; at the entrance a female perſonage, in the character of a nymph, addreſſed her majeſty in a pertinent ſpeech, in which ſhe denominated herſelf the genius of the place. (See Nichols's Royal Progreſſes.) The queen was next entertained with the exhibition of a ſea-fight. The owner of the place at this time was Sir Percival Hart, in honour of whom, according to Phillipott, Elizabeth named the place Bark-Hart, which appellation it ſtill retains.

The manor of Crofton was once a ſeparate pariſh, but it was totally deſtroyed by fire. It is alſo reported by tradition, that Thomas à Becket was born in this pariſh; but this is clearly an error: that prelate was born in the pariſh of St. Thomas Acres, in London.

ST. MARY CRAY.

OF the five pariſhes which remain to be deſcribed in this hundred, four are diſtinguiſhed by the adjunct appellative Cray, from the river Cray above mentioned.

St. Mary Cray is a market town, or rather was; for in 1703 the market-houſe was deſtroyed by a tempeſt, and the market has not ſince that time been kept. This is ſomewhat ſurpriſing; for as the village is both populous and rich, and as the convenience of a market is ſo locally beneficial, it would be politic to reſtore it.

Though

Though this pariſh is increaſing in population, the church is only a chapel of eaſe to Orpington. The vicar of Orpington is alſo vicar of St. Mary Cray.

Beſides the manor of St. Mary Cray, which nevertheleſs ſeems to be only a part of the manor of Orpington, there are the ſeparate manors of St. Mary Lyng Ockmere, Kevington, Hockenden, and Waldens. There are no natural or other curioſities in the place; no local cuſtoms, peculiarities, or antiquities, which will juſtify any further detail.

PAUL'S CRAY.

THIS place has been variouſly denominated Rodulph's Cray, Cray Paulins, and Paulins Cray. The church was conſecrated to St. Paulinus, which accounts for the two latter appellations; the cauſe of the former is unknown to us.

There is ſtill leſs to be obſerved in this pariſh than in the former; it is not ſo populous, has no manufacture, market, or particular curioſities. The manor was one of thoſe given by the Conqueror to his brother Odo. It now belongs to lord Sidney, who is alſo the patron of the rectory.

FOOT'S CRAY.

IN the reign of Edward the Confeſſor one Godwin Fot, or Vot, was proprietor of this manor, and from him the place derives its name of Foot's Cray.

Foot's Cray Place is an elegant manſion built from a deſign of Palladio. It was formerly poſſeſſed by Bourchier Cleve, Eſq.; from him it deſcended to Sir George Yonge. It now belongs to a gentleman of the name of Harenc.

The church is a plain and ſmall edifice, without any thing curious within, or in its exterior appearance. The rectory is in the gift of the crown; part of the village is in the pariſh of Chiſlehurſt. The number of inhabitants does not exceed 120, and it is in all reſpects an obſcure and inconſiderable place.

NORTH CRAY.

THIS place is denominated North Cray, becauſe it is the moſt to the north of the villages to which the name of Cray is annexed.

This manor alſo was given by William the Conqueror to his brother. It has

paſſed through the hands of various proprietors to the Rev. William Hetherington; and from him to the heirs of the late Thomas Coventry, Eſq.

There is not a more agreeable, healthy, or populous ſpot than the village of North Cray to be found near the metropolis. It is charmingly diverſified with villas and well-cultivated domains. Two in particular merit notice, one called Mount Maſcall, the other Vale Maſcall. The former ſtands on a gentle riſing ground, which commands the view of an enchanting ſcene: Vale Maſcall is of inferior magnitude, but no leſs intereſting and agreeable. At this ſpot the river Cray exhibits a picture of a caſcade, which is greatly admired, and well deſerves to be ſo for its extraordinary beauty.

The church has a mean appearance; but the rector has a neat and new-built houſe, which he owes in a great meaſure to the liberality of the above-named Mr. Hetherington. The patronage of the living is with the lord of the manor.

BEXLEY

IS the laſt place to be deſcribed in the hundred of Ruxley. This village has been variouſly written Beccley, Bekeley, Bekeſley, Bixle, and at laſt Bexley.

This manor came from different poſſeſſors to Sir William Camden, who made over his property in it to the univerſity of Oxford, at the end of a limited period, for the expreſs purpoſe of founding an hiſtorical lecture.

There are many ancient ſeats in this pariſh, particularly thoſe of Hall-place, Blendon-hall, Lamierby, or, as it is vulgarly called, Lamaby, Danſon-hill, Brampton-hall, and High-ſtreet-houſe. This village is ſpread out to a conſiderable extent, and has ſeveral hamlets belonging to it. We have called it a village, in compliance with cuſtom; but its population is ſo great, and increaſing, that it might well enough be named a town. The hamlets of Hurſt, Halfway-ſtreet, Bridgen, Blendon, Upton, and part of Welling, belong to Bexley.

The appearance of the church by no means correſponds with the populouſneſs of the place, or wealth of the inhabitants. It is conſecrated to St. Mary, and is in the patronage of lord Sidney.

There are twelve alms-houſes in Bexley, built from the produce of private contributions. Theſe, however, are not endowed with any ſtipend.

A very ſingular inſect made its appearance in a pond belonging to this pariſh in

1736. Thoſe who are curious in natural hiſtory will be entertained with the deſcription which is given of it in the Philoſophical Tranſactions, vol. xi. p. 153.

Our account of this hundred is here brought to a concluſion. It will be found to comprehend a conſiderable portion of the county; and we believe it will appear, that we have omitted nothing of importance within the limits of thoſe objects which we profeſſed to exhibit to our readers.

Hundred of Little and Lesnes.

THIS hundred is named after the two half hundreds into which it is divided, in like manner with the hundred of Bromley and Beckenham, which we have already noticed, and the hundred of Dartford and Wilmington, which follows next in order.

The hundred of Little and Leſnes was in the reign of Edward the Firſt called the hundred of Litelai, and ſo alſo it is denominated in Domeſday-book. In the reign of Henry IV. it was called by the name which it ſtill retains.

It is divided into four pariſhes, diſtinguiſhed by the names of Eaſt Wickham, Plumſted, Erith, and Crayford.

Eaſt Wickham muſt not be confounded with the Wickham near Hayes, of which we have made mention in p. 178. This is but a ſmall and inconſiderable village, containing not more than 40 houſes, and ſomewhat more than 200 inhabitants. The manor once belonged to the family of Lovell; and to that lord Lovell in particular, who was the favourite of the ſanguinary Richard the Third, and on whom the famous diſtich was made—

> The rat, the cat, and Lovell the dog,
> Rule all England under the hog.

The hog meant Richard, whoſe creſt was a boar. From this family the manor has deſcended from various proprietors to the Rev. Mr. Bennet.

The pariſh church is curious, and of conſiderable antiquity; it is conſtructed of flint and ſtone, but its ſpire is of wood. It is only a chapel of eaſe to Plumſted; and the great tithes of both pariſhes belong to a charitable foundation at Chatham, upon which they were ſettled by Sir John Hawkins.

Part of the village of Welling, through which the high road to Dover paſſes, lies

lies in the pariſh of Eaſt Wickham; and there is a charity-ſchool for twenty poor children, the benefits of which are extended to both theſe places.

PLUMSTED.

PLUMSTED is a village of greater importance and magnitude, for it contains near 130 houſes, and more than 650 inhabitants.

This place is celebrated for cherries and green peas; more than 100 acres are occupied for the cultivation of the former, and more than 50 ſolely for the latter. Here was formerly a weekly market on a Tueſday, and an annual fair which continued for the ſpace of three days; but theſe have long ceaſed.

In this pariſh are the manors of Plumſted, Burwaſh or Borwaſh-court, Boſtall, Borſtall, or Borton, and Plumſted Acon or Upland. The firſt is veſted in the ſociety of Queen's college, Oxford, to which it was bequeathed by John Michel, Eſq. for the maintenance of eight fellows and four ſcholars. Four under-graduates have ſince been added to the number. Burwaſh belongs to a gentleman of the name of Martin, who has a manſion in the pariſh not far from Woolwich. The Clothworkers' company are owners of the manor of Borſtall, not by gift, but by purchaſe. This manor contains a few ſcattered houſes, and may therefore be conſidered as a hamlet of Plumſted. The ſame reſpectable company are alſo proprietors of the manor of Plumſted Acon.

The Society for the Propagation of the Goſpel in New England, and the adjacent Parts, have alſo an eſtate in this pariſh, known by the name of Suffolk-place-farm. The eſtate which is called Plumſted-park-farm belongs to a merchant of the name of Bouzer.

The church of Plumſted may be conſidered as a great curioſity; and the lofty turret in particular, near the north aiſle, which has a parapet. Among other curious monuments is one to John Lidgbird, Eſq. of Shooter's-hill, and another to John Denham, Eſq.

There is no charity-ſchool in this pariſh, and only a few benefactions to the poor from different individuals. There are not much leſs than 1000 acres of marſh land, belonging to Plumſted; the hiſtory of which, with the circumſtances of their embankments, would fill a volume. They are now left to the management of the commiſſion of ſewers.

ERITH.

ERITH is the place from which the hundred took its joint name of Leſnes. Antiquarians greatly differ with reſpect to the etymology of this word—ſome think it comes from the Saxon word *leſwes*, which means paſtures; others derive it from *leſe*, an old Britiſh word for paſtures; and *neſe*, which ſignifies a cape—others again trace it to *erre*, which means ancient; and *hythe*, a Saxon word for harbour; and this laſt is, in our opinion, the moſt conſiſtent, and the moſt probable. In Domeſday-book it is written Loiſnes, and in ſome remoter records Hlieſnes.

This alſo was one of the manors appropriated by the Conqueror for the benefit of his brother Odo; it is at preſent occupied by the family of Wheatley. The places of greateſt note in and near this village, are Bedingwall, Hering-hill, Draper's-place, and Belvidere-houſe; which laſt manſion is the reſidence of lord Eardley. Sampſon Gideon, father of lord Eardley, obtained this place by purchaſe of the Baltimore family. This gentleman rebuilt the manſion, and adorned it with a moſt curious and valuable collection of pictures.

The village itſelf is of no great conſideration. The Indiamen generally ſtop at this place to get rid of ſo much of their cargoes as may facilitate their progreſs up the river. This incident unavoidably makes Erith in ſome degree populous; at leaſt it is the occaſion of its being numerouſly viſited at particular times. There are two annual fairs at Erith, one on Holy Thurſday, the other on Michaelmas-day. There is no charity-ſchool, nor any benefactions to the poor, except the intereſt of 50*l.* bequeathed by a lady.

The church is not within the town, but almoſt half a mile to the north of it. It is a vicarage, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and in the gift of the Daſhwood family.

There was anciently an abbey in this place named Leſnes-abbey, and founded by Richard de Lucy, who in the reign of Henry the Second was lord chief juſtice of England. Several ſtone coffins, and various antiquities, have been here dug up. Nothing can exceed the miſerable, melancholy, and dreary appearance of the Eſſex coaſt as viewed from Erith; which, however, is agreeably oppoſed by the riſing hills of Plumſted and its vicinity.

CRAYFORD.

CRAYFORD, the laſt pariſh in this hundred, receives its name from the river Cray. This river anciently was called Crecca; and the place accordingly, in the time of the Saxons, was named Creccan-ford, the meaning of which is, the paſſage over the Crecca.

The manor of Crayford, in the reign of king John, was the property of Adam de Port. In 1694 it belonged to the gallant admiral Sir Cloudeſley Shovel, whoſe lamentable fate is thus related by a writer of reſpectable authority:—"After the "unſucceſsful attempt upon Toulon, in which Sir Cloudeſley performed all in his "power, he bore away for the Streights, and ſoon after reſolved to return home. "He left Sir Thomas Dilkes at Gibraltar with nine ſhips of the line, for the "ſecurity of the coaſts of Italy; and then proceeded with the remainder of the "fleet, conſiſting of ten ſhips of the line, four fire-ſhips, a ſloop, and a yacht, for "England. October 22, he came into the ſoundings, and had ninety fathom "water. About noon he lay by, but at ſix in the evening he made ſail again, and "ſtood away under his courſes, believing, as it is ſuppoſed, that he ſaw the light "on Scilly. Soon after which, ſeveral ſhips of his fleet made the ſignal of diſtreſs, "as he himſelf did; and ſeveral periſhed, beſides the admiral's: there were on "board the Aſſociation, with him, his ſons-in-law, and many young gentlemen "of quality. His body was thrown aſhore the next day upon the iſland of Scilly, "where ſome fiſhermen took him up; and, having ſtolen a valuable emerald "ring from his finger, ſtripped and buried him. This coming to the ears of Mr. "Paxton, who was purſer of the Arundel, he found out the fellows, declared the "ring to be Sir Cloudeſley Shovel's, and obliged them to diſcover where they had "buried the body, which he took up and carried on board his own ſhip to Portſ-"mouth. It was thence conveyed to London, and buried in Weſtminſter-abbey "with great ſolemnity, where a monument was afterwards erected to his memory "by the queen's direction.

"Sir Cloudeſley Shovel was, at the time of his death, rear-admiral of England, "admiral of the white, commander in chief of her majeſty's fleets, and one of "the council to prince George of Denmark, as lord high-admiral of England. "He married the widow of his patron, Sir John Narborough, by whom he left

" two daughters, co-heireſſes."—The manor now belongs to Miles Barne, Eſq. of Sotterly, in Suffolk.

There are ſeveral places in this pariſh worthy of notice; and in particular, Howbery, Newbery, and Elham. Howbery, in the reign of Henry the Second, belonged to the noble family of Northwood: in the reign of Henry the Sixth, it was the property of Roger Apylton: a daughter of Sir Cloudeſley Shovel conveyed it with her perſon to John Blackwood, Eſq. with whoſe heirs it now remains. Newbery, in the beginning of the reign of Henry the Sixth, belonged to the family of Poynings: it now belongs, with Howbery, to the heirs of the daughter of Sir Cloudeſley Shovel. Elham belonged to a family of the ſame name. Henry Elham, who poſſeſſed it in the reign of Henry the Sixth, was one of the auditors of that monarch. From the Elhams, it deſcended by purchaſe to the family of Harman. One of this family ſold it to Robert Draper, Eſq. The preſent owner is Miles Barne, Eſq. above mentioned.

The town of Crayford conſiſts of one long but irregular ſtreet. Here was a reſidence of Sir Cloudeſley Shovel; and ſuch is the fate of greatneſs, it became afterwards a linen manufacturer's warehouſe, and is now, or at leaſt a conſiderable part of it, a workhouſe. The river here divides itſelf into two ſtreams, which ſeverally ſupply a ſufficient quantity of water for a large iron mill, and two conſiderable manufactories for printing of calicoes. The river flows into the Thames at no great diſtance from the town of Dartford.

The neighbourhood of this place is memorable in Engliſh hiſtory for a great and bloody battle between Hengiſt, the firſt Saxon king of Kent, and the Britons; Hengiſt ſlew four thouſand of them, and drove them entirely out of this part of the country. Many of our moſt learned antiquarians make Crayford the firſt Roman ſtation from London towards Dover. Certain it is, that the Roman road may be evidently diſtinguiſhed on Bexley-heath, ſtretching in a ſouth-eaſt direction towards Crayford. There are alſo ſome very curious ancient and deep caves in the woods, heaths, and fields in the vicinity of Crayford, the uſe and origin of which have been variouſly explained. Some of theſe are from fifteen to twenty fathoms in depth, which increaſe in circumference as they deſcend, and at the extremity are found to have many large apartments reſting upon chalk pillars. They might not improbably have been firſt dug for the purpoſe of getting chalk; they might

might afterwards, in times of danger and civil diſturbances, have ſerved as hiding-places for the wives, families, and property of thoſe neareſt the ſcene of danger.

The church is a ſpacious, and not inelegant ſtructure. Its peal of bells is much admired for its melody. The rectory is in the juriſdiction of the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and the advowſon is in the poſſeſſion of the heirs of Sir Henry Farmer, Bart. There is a very commodious and handſome parſonage-houſe. In Ecton's Theſaurus this place is named Earde alias Crayford, and is valued in the king's books at 35*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

Hundred of Dartford and Wilmington.

THIS may be ſaid, in ſome degree, to be a hundred of modern creation. It is not diſtinguiſhed as a hundred in Domeſday-book; but the two pariſhes of Dartford and Wilmington are repreſented as conſtituting a part of the hundred of Axtane.

Dartford is a place of ſome conſideration, as well from its local conſequence, as from the many things to be commemorated in its neighbourhood. It is in the direct road from London to Dover, and of courſe, when the communication was open betwixt this country and France, was a town of great traffic.

The name of the place in Latin is *Derenti Vadum*, the paſſage over the Derent; and accordingly its Saxon name was Derentford. Its orthography in Domeſday-book is ſeemingly a corruption from Derentford. It is there written Tarenteford.

In remoter times Dartford and its manor was conſidered as the private property of the ſovereign, and in the reign of king John the produce of the rents was paid into the royal exchequer by the ſheriff of Kent. It was afterwards preſented by the crown to a Norman nobleman of the name of St. Paul. In the reign of Henry the Sixth, it appears to have belonged to the duke of Somerſet, but was afterwards given to Neville earl of Warwick by Edward the Fourth. In the reign of Henry the Seventh it belonged to the noble and generous Margaret counteſs of Richmond and Derby, who was a munificent benefactreſs to the univerſity of Cambridge, in which place ſhe founded Chriſt's and St. John's colleges. By the death of this lady it again reverted to the crown, and after paſſing through the hands of Sir Thomas Walſingham, Sir Robert Darcy, Thomas Yonge, Eſq. and others, it became the property of Sir Charles Morgan, with whom it remains.

The

The other manors in this pariſh are thoſe called Temples, Dartford Priory, Portbridge, Charles, and Baldwins, which laſt is rather a reputed manor. Temples was anciently the property of the Knights Templars, from whom it took the name which it now bears. This manor alſo belongs to the above-mentioned Sir Charles Morgan.

The hiſtory of Dartford Priory would be of ſufficient intereſt to juſtify a ſeparate publication; our account of it muſt be neceſſarily conciſe. Edward the Third was its founder, and he gave a large quantity of land for the ſupport of the prioreſs and convent. Theſe eſtates were increaſed and confirmed by ſucceeding princes to the time of Henry the Eighth, who took poſſeſſion of the building, and enlarged and adorned it as a place of reſidence for himſelf and his ſucceſſors. Some of the nobleſt ladies in the kingdom, at different periods, lived in this religious houſe either as prioreſſes or nuns. After the death of Henry the Eighth, it became the property of Ann of Cleves, the repudiated wife of that fickle, turbulent, and haughty prince. This illuſtrious lady poſſeſſed theſe domains till her death, which happened in the fourth year of the reign of Mary. James the Firſt granted this manor in ſucceeding times to Cecil earl of Saliſbury, by way of exchange for his afterwards favourite manſion, known by the appellation of Theobalds. From lord Saliſbury it became the property of Sir Robert Darcy, and the preſent poſſeſſor is Sir Charles Morgan.

What was once the priory ſtill preſerves a venerable appearance. There is a large gate-houſe, and what was once the ſouth wing. The old ſtone walls, which encloſed the garden, alſo remain. It is now diſtinguiſhed by the name of The Place-houſe.

The firſt proprietor on record of the manor called Portbridge, was a gentleman in the reign of Edward the Third of the name of Bicknore, or Bykenore. In an old rental, in the time of Henry the Eighth, it is denominated the manor of Portbrege, otherwiſe Bykenores. In Elizabeth's reign it was termed Bignours, a circumſtance mentioned here merely to mark the variation of our language. This manor belongs to the ſame proprietor at preſent as the premiſes above mentioned.

The manor of Charles was ſo called from an ancient family of the ſame name. It ſeems to have been granted by Richard the Second to Adam Bamme, Eſq. who in that reign was twice lord mayor of London. In 1765 it belonged to Gerard Anne Edwards,

Edwards, who married lady Jane Noel, a daughter of lord Gainſborough. His heirs are the preſent owners.

Baldwins, which, as was ſaid above, is a reputed manor only, was ſo named from a Sir John Baude. Its revenues were given by Henry the Eighth to cardinal Wolſey. This prelate appropriated the eſtate to the college he founded in Oxford; but on his diſgrace it came again into the hands of the king, who afterwards gave it to Eton college. To this honourable foundation it now belongs, and is occupied under it by a gentleman of the name of Hulſe.

Horſeman's-place is alſo in this pariſh, and reſpectable from its antiquity and the property annexed to it. Since the reign of Edward the Second it has been poſſeſſed by Thomas de Luda, Thomas de Shardelow, Thomas Brune or Brown, John Byer or Beer, &c. &c. till about the year 1770 it was purchaſed by Mr. Sergeant Leigh, in whoſe family it continues.

Stoneham or Stanham is a hamlet belonging to this pariſh, and at the diſtance of three quarters of a mile from Dartford. At the ſuppreſſion of the monaſteries in the reign of Henry the Eighth, that monarch became poſſeſſed of Stanham.

Dartford may boaſt of a moſt excellent market, which is held every Saturday, and plentifully ſupplied with proviſions of all kinds. There is alſo a very commodious and ſpacious market-houſe, which was erected in conſequence of the inconvenient ſituation and ruinous condition of the old market-houſe, by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants of Dartford, and the neighbouring gentry. Dartford is alſo famous in our hiſtory for having had the firſt paper-mill which was eſtabliſhed in England; the name of the proprietor was Sir John Spilman. He lived in the time of Elizabeth; and in the Harleian manuſcripts in the Britiſh Muſeum is one which ſhows—"That John Spilman, her majeſty's jeweller, had licence for the ſole gathering of rags, &c. neceſſary for the manufactory of paper for the ſpace of ten years." This paper-mill ſtill remains, and is employed for the making of paper as at its firſt erection.

There are various other mills in and near Dartford, as well for making of paper, as for gunpowder, for cutting iron bars, &c. All theſe are worked by the ſtream of the river Darent, from which the town takes its name, and which at the eaſt extremity croſſes the high road, and is paſſed by a bridge of no mean appearance or inelegant ſtructure.

The famous inſurrection of Wat Tyler commenced at Dartford; this demagogue

gogue was in a ſhort period joined by one hundred thouſand followers. The event and ſuppreſſion of the rebellion are well known. The circumſtance of Tyler's being ſlain by Walworth, who was lord mayor at the time, is the reaſon why the ſword conſtitutes a part of the arms of the city of London.

The church is a very ſpacious, and, in ſome reſpects, a handſome edifice. It is a vicarage, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and in the gift of the biſhop. The ſpot of ground belonging to it, and appropriated for burials, is very ſingularly circumſtanced. It is ſomewhat remote from the church, and ſo elevated as to be much higher than the tower.

There are an hoſpital for the poor, and ſome alms-houſes tolerably well endowed. On the whole, Dartford is a reſpectable and thriving town, which ſeems to be progreſſively increaſing in wealth and populouſneſs.

WILMINGTON.

A MORE charming ſpot than this upon which Wilmington is ſituated cannot eaſily be found. It is elevated, dry, healthy, and commands the moſt delightful and extenſive proſpects as well over the Thames as the adjacent country. The ſoil is gravel; the vicinity produces many ſcarce plants; there are ſeveral curious antiquities at no great diſtance; and upon the whole, thoſe who wiſh a place of elegant retirement, convenience, and ingenuous amuſement, may well be ſatisfied with the town or neighbourhood of Wilmington.

In ancient records the place is written Wilmintune and Wilmintuna; the manor occaſionally is called both by the name of Wilmington and Grandiſons, which latter appellation it takes from the family of Graunſton or Grandiſon, which flouriſhed in the reign of Henry the Third. We find that in Henry the Sixth's reign it was in the poſſeſſion of the great earl of Warwick, who was killed at the famous and bloody battle of Barnet. It afterwards came into the poſſeſſion of Sir Jeffery Pole, and in the time of the firſt James it belonged to Sir Chriſtopher Heron. In 1766 it was conveyed to Nathaniel Webb, Eſq. of Taunton, Somerſetſhire, and to him or his heirs it now belongs.

There are two other manors in this pariſh, namely, thoſe of Rowe-hill and Stanhill, which alſo is called Wardendale. The firſt of theſe belongs to the above Nathaniel Webb, Eſq., the latter to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter.

The

The church was formerly a chapel of eaſe to Sutton at Hone; it is now a diſtinct vicarage, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and in the gift of the dean and chapter. It is valued in the king's books at *6l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

We again repeat that Wilmington is in all reſpects a moſt eligible ſituation, and not eaſily to be ſurpaſſed in local advantages by any place in this or the adjoining counties.

Hundred of Axtane.

THIS hundred is of conſiderably greater extent, and contains no leſs than fifteen pariſhes, which we ſhall enumerate and deſcribe in their order:—1. Sutton at Hone; 2. Darent; 3. Stone; 4. Swanſcombe; 5. Southfleet; 6. Longfield; 7. Fawkham; 8. Hartley; 9. Ridley; 10. Aſh; 11. Kingſdown, in part only; 12. Horton Kirkby; 13. Farningham; 14. Aynsford; 15. Lullingſtone:—a part alſo of Cowden is in this hundred: the church of Cowden is not.

SUTTON at HONE.

THIS pariſh was formerly far more conſiderable than it is at preſent, and indeed gave its name to the hundred. It is now of great extent, and comprehends various manors and ample premiſes. Its name in Latin is *Suthtuna*, or South Town; and the adjunct of At Hone has a reference to its low ſituation; *hone* meaning a valley.

Sutton at Hone, beſides its own particular manor, which is divided into two moieties, called St. John's manor and Sutton manor, contains the manors of Hawley-houſe and Highlands, the hamlets of Hawley and Swanley, and the extenſive premiſes named Sutton-place, Gildon-hill, and Hackſtaple, or, as it is now called, Hextable.

The manor of Sutton at Hone anciently belonged to the Knights Hoſpitallers; in the time of queen Elizabeth it became the property of two co-heireſſes. The one called St. John's manor, now belongs to William Hill, Eſq. of Carwythinick, in Cornwall; the other, which retains the appellation of Sutton manor, with Sutton-place, a ſpacious and noble manſion, is the property of John Mumford, Eſq.

Hawley was in remoter times called and written Hagelei, and was once the property of Odo, brother of William the Conqueror. Hawley-houſe is of great antiquity, and in the reign of the third Edward belonged to the venerable family of

Haſtings; from them it has deſcended through various hands to the family and heirs of Mr. Sergeant Leigh, whom we have before had occaſion to mention.

Highlands ſtands in the moſt elevated part of this pariſh, which, indeed, is intimated by its name, and is near Wilmington. It was purchaſed of John Taſker, Eſq. in 1766, by John Calcraft, Eſq. of Ingries, or Ingreſs; and to his heirs it now belongs.

Gildon-hill may be traced to have belonged to the priory of Dartford, in the reign of Henry the Eighth. In later times the lady dowager Folkeſtone has occupied and owned it. This eſtate is obliged to pay ſome ſmall annual ſum to the crown as an annual fee-farm rent.

Hextable is in the hamlet of Swanley. It was anciently written Exſtapull, then Hackſtaple, and now Hextable. It is a ſeat of great antiquity, and in Henry the Eighth's reign was poſſeſſed and occupied by Sir John Wiltſhire. The preſent occupier is that eminent phyſician Dr. Pitcairn, who occaſionally retires to this place from the fatigues of his uſeful but laborious profeſſion.

The town of Sutton itſelf is charmingly ſituated. The river Darent agreeably flows through it, and from the church the country riſes in eaſy gradations to Gildon-hill, or, as it is written, not improperly, in many of our maps, Gentle-hill.

The church is a ſpacious, and not inelegant edifice, dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt; it is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and in the gift of the dean and chapter. In the year 1615 it was accidentally burnt to the ground. Some thoughtleſs perſon fired at a bird ſitting within the church, and it was ſuppoſed that the wadding of the gun lodged in the roof, and thus occaſioned the conflagration.

D A R E N T.

DERENTE, Deorwent, Tarent, Darent, for ſo has this place been variouſly denominated, is now known by the name only of Darne. It is a moſt agreeable village, whether we conſider its ſituation, its neighbourhood, or the delightful ſcenery with which it is every where ſurrounded.

The manor of Darent anciently belonged to Chriſt-church, Canterbury; the preſent proprietors are the dean and chapter of Canterbury. There are ſeveral conſiderable and pleaſant hamlets belonging to this pariſh, in particular thoſe of St. Margaret Hills, South Darent, and Greenſtreet-green.

St. Margaret Hills, properly ſpeaking, is St. Margaret Helles. It was called Helles from one Thomas de Helles, to whom the lands belonged in the reign of the firſt Edward. It is a manor under the manor of Darent, and at preſent is the property of a family whoſe names are Lane.

South Darent has ſome fragments of antiquity about it, which ſeem to indicate greater importance than it now poſſeſſes. There are ſome ancient flint walls, which not improbably are the ruins of a church.

Greenſtreet-green alſo has a manſion of ſome antiquity. The lands and houſe at the preſent period belong to a gentleman of the name of Waldo. An eſtate alſo, called Gore-houſe, with other premiſes of leſs importance, conſtitute part of this pariſh.

Near Greenſtreet-green are many tumuli or barrows, which have often exerciſed the ſagacity and diligence of our antiquarians: ſome have not heſitated to pronounce this the ſcene of a bloody battle betwixt Vortimer king of the Britons, and the Saxons.

The church is a mean and ſmall ſtructure, dedicated to St. Margaret. It is a vicarage, in the gift of the dean and chapter of Rocheſter. In Ecton's Theſaurus it is denominated Daruth alias Darenth.

STONE.

THERE are other places of this name in the county of Kent, for which reaſon this village is always called Stone near Dartford. Its ancient name was Stane, but Stane in Saxon ſignifies ſtone, and the country about this town is remarkably ſtony, which explains the origin of its appellation.

The places moſt worthy of obſervation in the pariſh, are the manor and hamlet of Littlebrooke, Stone-caſtle, Stone-place, and Cotton, of which Cotton and Littlebrooke are manors. The manor of Stone conſtitutes part of the poſſeſſions of the biſhop of Rocheſter. Littlebrooke, which in former times was written Litelbroc, has deſcended by marriage to a ſon of archbiſhop Potter. Stone-caſtle merits more particular obſervation. This is ſituated on an elevated ſpot at no great diſtance from the high road to Dover; the lands belonging to it are conſiderable, and the produce of them was bequeathed by Dr. Plume, the founder of the Plumian profeſſorſhip at Cambridge, for the following purpoſes:—Twenty-ſix ſermons were to be preached alternately at Graveſend and Dartford, on every Wedneſday during

during the ſummer half year. After the expenſes of theſe ſhould be defrayed, the remainder of the produce of the eſtate was to be appropriated to the increaſe of ſuch vicarages and livings in the dioceſe of Rocheſter as did not exceed 60*l.* per annum. We underſtand that the intention of the donor has been punctually fulfilled.

The manor of Cotton, in the reign of the firſt Edward, belonged to a family whoſe name was Cotton. It afterwards was the property of Sir John Wiltſhire, whoſe poſſeſſions in this hundred have been mentioned before. In the reign of Elizabeth it came into the joint hands of lord Burleigh and Sir Thomas Walſingham. We find it afterwards in the poſſeſſion, firſt of Sir Francis Lawley, afterwards of Sir William Keyt, and finally belonging to a lady reſident at Canterbury, whoſe name is unknown to us.

The church of Stone has been exceedingly admired, and well deſerves to be ſo. The architecture is Gothic, and a more perfect or more beautiful ſpecimen of this ſtyle cannot eaſily be found. The roof of the chancel is very lofty, yet it has the appearance of being much leſs ſo than heretofore: ſome ancient ſtalls ſtill remain on each ſide; theſe are remarkable for their curious workmanſhip, and for their ſupporters, which are delicate pillars of brown marble. The chapel is now a venerable pile of ruins; here formerly was the monument of the before-named Sir John Wiltſhire and his wife. The Gothic windows, which are very large and perfectly regular, are in high preſervation. All together, the curious antiquary would find a viſit to the pariſh church of Stone well repay the trouble and labour it would coſt him.

Stone is a rectory, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and patronage of the biſhop. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. In the laſt century this beautiful edifice was ſo injured by lightning, that the bells were abſolutely melted, and the roof and chancel almoſt deſtroyed.

We cannot leave this village without mentioning an anecdote recorded by that ancient hiſtorian Matthew Paris, which every reader will believe or not, as he thinks proper. There was a child whoſe name was William Crule or Crul: at the age of two years he effectually cured every kind of malady incident to the human body, by placing his hand upon the diſeaſed perſon, and making the ſign of the croſs on his forehead. This wonderful fact is ſaid to have happened in the year 1252, and in the reign of the ſecond Henry.

SWANS-

SWANSCOMBE.

SWANSCOMBE is the camp of Swane. The Saxon word *combe* or *compe*, is derived from the Latin *campus*, which is a field or camp. Swane, as appears from our hiſtory, was monarch of Denmark; and as Camden relates, having penetrated as far as Greenhithe, there landed his troops, and proceeding onwards, pitched his camp at Swanſcombe. Few etymologies are ſo clear and ſatisfactory.

In Domeſday-book Swanſcombe is ſpelt Suineſcamp, and appears to have belonged to the brother of William the Conqueror. It reverted at different times, and on various occaſions, to the crown; and in the reign of Edward the Third, was the property of Roger lord Mortimer. Elizabeth beſtowed it on Anthony Weldon, Eſq. who afterwards received the honour of knighthood. In 1763 we find it in the poſſeſſion of Robert Child, Eſq. the great banker, and to his heirs it now belongs.

The manor of Combes is in this pariſh, from which an ancient family heretofore took their name. John de Combe occupied this place in the reign of Edward the Third. In now belongs to the heirs of Sir Francis Head.

Greenhithe, which is a hamlet belonging to Swanſcombe, well deſerves notice from its ſupplying the contiguous counties with immenſe quantities of chalk and lime. Here is always the appearance of great activity and traffic. The ſhore is covered with wharfs, and a numerous quantity of barges are continually employed in loading or landing various articles of commerce. The ferry which was anciently eſtabliſhed here for the tranſporting of carriages, is now uſed only for horſes.

Ingreſs, or Ingries, is alſo in this pariſh, and was once a manor belonging to Dartford priory. It latterly formed one of the many eſtates of John Calcraft, Eſq. On his death the manſion was occupied by different individuals, but the property is, we believe, veſted in Mr. Calcraft's heirs.

The ſtory of William the Conqueror's being ſtopped in this place by the men of Kent, headed by the archbiſhop, and demanding with their arms in their hands, the confirmation of their rights, ſeems not to be believed by our moſt ſagacious antiquaries.

The church is a rectory in the gift of the maſter and fellows of Sidney college, Cambridge. Its value in the king's books is 25*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The high road to Dover croſſes the village, which has a pictureſque appearance from the water, on account of the woods which agreeably cover the brow of the adjoining hills.

SOUTH-

SOUTHFLEET.

SUTHFLETA, now called Southfleet, is a place of great antiquity. In the troubleſome and dark times of the Saxon heptarchy, Birtrick was lord of the manor of Sudfleta. It afterwards came into the hands of the crown, and we find that Henry the Eighth gave it to Sir William Petre. He ſold it to William Garret, Eſq.; and it now belongs to the Sedley family, whoſe manſion is at Scadbury in this pariſh. Scadbury is a very ancient ſeat, but is now deſerted by its former poſſeſſors.

The manor of Pole is in Southfleet pariſh, but has no particulars attached to it to juſtify our detaining the reader. There is alſo a ſeat or manſion of ſome antiquity called Hook-place, and a hamlet, the name of which is Betſham, or Bedeſham.

A Roman mileſtone or milliare was found in this pariſh, which confirms the aſſertion of antiquarians, that a Roman road paſſed through Southfleet, and that Southfleet was not improbably a Roman ſtation.

The church is an object which well deſerves attention. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and has many curious marks of antiquity about it. The font in particular has been very much admired. Its form is octagon, and the workmanſhip is remarkably curious. There are alſo ſix ancient ſtalls or ſeats, intended doubtleſs for the monks. In the eaſt window are ſome curious fragments of painted glaſs. On the pavement in the approach to the altar are ſome red and yellow tiles. There is alſo a muſical peal of bells in this church, and it is altogether an elegant and intereſting ſtructure.

We muſt not leave Southfleet without making honourable mention of its free-ſchool. This was founded in the year 1637 by Sir Charles Sedley, with a decent ſalary for the maſter. The heirs of this gentleman in ſucceeding times improved and increaſed the inſtitution.

The church is a rectory, in the gift of the biſhop of Rocheſter; and its value in the king's books is 31*l.* 15*s.*

LONGFIELD.

LONGFIELD, in Domeſday-book written Langafel, and in writings of remoter antiquity Langefeld, is the next pariſh to Southfleet. It is a mean inconſiderable

derable place, conſiſting only of a few poor and thinly ſcattered houſes. The ſoil is hard and ſterile, abounding in chalk with flint ſtones almoſt without number. The manor belongs to the archdeaconry of Rocheſter. The church is a poor and mean edifice, in the patronage of the biſhop of Rocheſter; nor has it any thing more remarkable appertaining to it, than that the good and generous archdeacon Plume, whoſe munificent charities have before been recorded, is interred within its walls.

FAWKHAM.

THE common people call this place Fakeham. It has at different periods been written Facheſham, Fealcanham, and Falcheham.

The manor is divided into the two diſtinct manors of Old and New Fawkham. The firſt deſcended from various proprietors to the dowager lady Folkſtone; the ſecond belongs to the heirs of William Selby, Eſq. of Pennis, a conſiderable manſion in this pariſh.

A ſingular donation bequeathed in part to the poor of this pariſh deſerves to be recorded. John Walter, Eſq. of Pennis, left by his will to the two pooreſt men of the different pariſhes of Aſh, Hartley, and Fawkham, "a large coat of good "ruſſet cloth;"—to two widows alſo of ſimilar ſituation and deſcription, "two "good ruſſet gowns."—It was moreover enjoined thoſe who were to receive the benefits of this bequeſt, to appear every Chriſtmas-day at Pennis, at eight o'clock in the morning, and thence proceed to the church, where they were to hear a ſermon, for preaching of which the clergyman was to receive ten ſhillings. After ſermon the poor men and women were to return to Pennis, and partake of a comfortable dinner.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary; it is a rectory in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, to which the lords of the manors of Old and New Fawkham alternately preſent.

HARTLEY.

THE name of this village has undergone a very ſingular alteration. In Domeſday-book we find it written Erclei, and in ancient records it has been thus expreſſed: "Herdei."—This manor reverted to the crown after having been for a long time poſſeſſed by the brother of William the Conqueror. From the ſovereign it will be

found to have paſſed through various hands, till it became veſted in a family of the name of Gens.

The ſoil of this pariſh reſembles that which we have deſcribed immediately before. It is full of flint ſtones, and is yet very chalky. The church is a mean and ſmall erection, dedicated to all the Saints. It is of no great value, being diſcharged from the king's books. The village has nothing in or near it which merits any particular notice.

RIDLEY.

REDLEGE, Redlegh, has finally become Ridley. This village alſo belonged to Odo, brother of the Conqueror. The manor now belongs to the heirs of William Glanville Evelyn, Eſq. in whoſe patronage alſo the rectory remains. This village has ſtill leſs to diſtinguiſh it than the former. There is no ſeparate manor in the pariſh, no premiſes of which it is neceſſary to make any diſtinct mention, no antiquities to record, no appropriate acts of charity to praiſe. That here they lived and here they died, is all that is known of the rude forefathers of the hamlet of Ridley.

ASH.

THIS village is in Domeſday-book written Eiſſe; in more ancient records it is found Æiſce near Farningham, and ſometimes near Wrotham.

There are the manors of North Aſh and South Aſh. We find that the manor of North Aſh having been forfeited to the crown, was granted by Henry the Eighth to Cromwell earl of Eſſex. It now belongs to the heirs of Thomas Lambard, Eſq.

South Aſh belonged to a family who either received or gave the name. John de Southeſhe was the proprietor and occupier in the reign of Edward the Third. It has for a long ſeries of years belonged to the family of Hodſell, a name which has at various times been written Huddyſhole, Hudſoll, and Hodſoll.

Another manor in this pariſh is called Holywell. There was, ſo early as the reign of Edward the Second, a nunnery of Benedictines, called the nunnery of Holywell, ſituated ſomewhere in the city of London. It is hardly neceſſary to inform the reader that this appellation of Holywell is an alteration from *holy well*, from

from ſome ſpring or fountain of preſumed ſanctity or holineſs. This manor alſo now belongs to the Lambard family.

The knights Templars had anciently ſome poſſeſſions in this pariſh, and there was a manor here named St. John's Aſh. By the way, it may ſtimulate the reſearches of ſome of our indefatigable antiquaries, to inquire whence it happens that one or more villages of the name of Aſh is to be found in almoſt every county of the kingdom. There is another village of the name of Aſh in the county of Kent, ſituated in the neighbourhood of Sandwich.

The village we are now deſcribing is ſomewhat romantic, being nearly ſurrounded with wood. The ſoil is hard, and very much covered with flint. The church originally was in the patronage of the knights of St. John of Jeruſalem. It now belongs to the Lambard family. It is a rectory, and valued in the king's books at 9*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

KINGSDOWN.

THIS place has been anciently thus variouſly written, Kingledune, Kingeſdune, and finally Kingſdown. The manor anciently belonged to the noble family of Fitzbernard. The preſent poſſeſſor is that great and affluent commoner Thomas William Coke, Eſq. of Holkham, in Norfolk.

The other manors in this pariſh are Hever, Chepſted, Mapleſcombe, and Woodland, which is alſo called Week.

The manor of Hever alſo belongs to Mr. Coke of Norfolk; and ſo alſo does a moiety of Chepſted—the other part of Chepſted manor is again ſubdivided among two or more proprietors.

Mapleſcombe has been at different times written Mapeldreſkampe and Mapſcumbe, which laſt is become its general name. In this place formerly was a ſeparate church and a noble manſion: both have long been in ruins. The manor belongs to Mr. Coke above mentioned.

Woodland or Week, though in this pariſh, lies in another hundred; it formerly was a pariſh of itſelf, though it now belongs to Kingſdown. This laſt is a poor and inconſiderable place, though, with regard to its ſoil, it is better than the places contiguous to it.

The ſituation of the church is moſt ſingularly romantic. It ſtands in the deep boſom of a wood which covers a ſpace of very little leſs than a hundred acres. It

is a rectory, the patronage of which is in the dean and chapter of Rocheſter. In the king's books it is entitled a joint rectory with Mapiſcombe or Mapſcombe, and is valued at 9*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

HORTON KIRKBY

IS really an intereſting ſpot.—Here formerly was a caſtle, of which many large and venerable ruins remain. It is an agreeable, fertile, and truly retired place, and contains in its vicinity many places which have formerly been of great conſideration, and now may well excite curioſity and attention.

The manor of Horton was given by the Conqueror to his brother Odo. One of his deſcendants built Horton-caſtle, which, from what may yet be ſeen of it, muſt once have been a ſtrong and ſpacious building. The manor now belongs to Queen's college, Oxford, to whom it was given by John Michel, Eſq. of Richmond in Surry.

Kirkby-court is alſo a manor in this pariſh. In queen Elizabeth's time it belonged to the celebrated Sir Thomas Walſingham; it now belongs to a widow lady, whoſe name has not reached us.

There is alſo in this pariſh a ſeat of no ſmall importance, the common appellation of which is Franks, whether we conſider the claims and poſſeſſions of the owner, or its local ſituation, and the pleaſant point which it occupies on the banks of the river Darent. Another agreeable ſeat in this pariſh is called Reynolds-place, of no leſs magnitude or intereſt than the former, whether we ſpeak of its antiquity or local advantages. There is alſo a hamlet belonging to Horton, which is called Pinden, anciently Pinnedene, and which was once of far greater importance than at preſent.

Horton is a vicarage; the church is dedicated to St. Mary; its patronage is in private hands. It appears from Ecton's Theſaurus that the name of the patron who laſt preſented was Mr. Thomas Williams.

FARNINGHAM.

THIS place, anciently written Ferlingeham, Ferningeham, and Freningham, is one of the moſt delightful villages in Kent. The ſcenes every where around it partake of all the beauties of a perfect landſcape. There is indeed every variety which

which the lover of ruſtic ſcenery would require, and the ſituation is as ſalubrious as it is agreeable.

Farningham, beſides its own particular manor, properly ſo denominated, contains the ſeparate manors of Chartons and Chimbhams, or, as the common people pronounce it, Chimmans. There is alſo belonging to this pariſh, what was once a conſiderable manſion, known by the name of Petham-place.

The manor of Farningham, after being an eſcheat to the crown by the diſgrace and puniſhment of Odo, has paſſed through the hands of various proprietors, till it now belongs to a gentleman of the name of Fuller. Chartons anciently belonged to the archbiſhops of Canterbury; the preſent proprietor is John Taſker, Eſq. of Franks. Chimmans, or more properly Chimbhams, in the reign of Henry the Third, belonged to John de Chimbeham; at the Reſtoration it became the property of Sir James Bunce, an alderman of London, and it is now enjoyed by one of his deſcendants. Petham-place was one of the many purchaſes made in this part of the county of Kent by John Calcraft, Eſq. of Ingreſs.

There is, as may be ſuppoſed from its local ſituation, a conſtant traffic through Farningham. The road from London to Maidſtone paſſes directly through it, and the paſſage is facilitated by a neat and commodious bridge, which is here thrown over the Darent—the bridge is of brick, and conſiſts of four arches. There has alſo been a mill eſtabliſhed in this place from the time of king Stephen, who appears to have given the mill of Frenynham alias Farningham, to a ſociety of monks eſtabliſhed at Bermondſey, in Surry.

The church of Farningham alone remains to be ſpoken of, and this alſo is entitled to our commendation. It is conſecrated to St. Peter and St. Paul; a vicarage, the patronage of which is with the archbiſhop of Canterbury. There is a very curious font in this church, the antiquity of which muſt obviouſly be very remote. It is of an octagonal form, and in each diviſion there are a number of allegorical figures, executed with no mean ſkill. Some fooliſh and modern hand, not improbably with the idea of improving it, has ſo disfigured the ancient devices, that it is almoſt impoſſible to comprehend the deſign of the original artiſt. The peal of bells in Farningham church is ſaid to be unuſually good.

EYNSFORD.

THIS place is in all the maps erroneouſly written Aynsford. The etymology of the names of places terminating in the word *ford*, can hardly to the commoneſt reader require explanation. At this place, in remoter times, was a ford over the river Darent. Here alſo was one of our ancient caſtles, which, with the manor, was held of the archbiſhops of Canterbury. It is now in the poſſeſſion of Sir John Dixon Dyke.

There are three other manors in this pariſh, namely, Orkeſden, Little Mote, and Pelham-court. Orkeſden gave a name to an ancient family, and William de Orkeſden was a perſonage of ſome note in the reign of John. This manor alſo belongs to the reſpectable baronet, proprietor of the manor of Eynsford. The manors of Little Mote and Pelham-court, are the property ſeverally of lord Romney and the Boſvilles of Staffordſhire. There is nothing to record of this place, no local cuſtoms, antiquities, or peculiarities.

The church is mean and ſmall. There were ſome curious and ancient monuments, and monumental inſcriptions; theſe, however, partly by time, and partly by unfeeling, and we had almoſt ſaid unpardonable negligence, are defaced and ruined. The rector of Eynsford preſents to the vicarage; and the gentleman who at preſent poſſeſſes this privilege is a layman, and the above mentioned Sir John Dixon Dyke.

There is a hamlet belonging to this pariſh, not to be omitted in point of accuracy, though of no great importance in itſelf; and this is Crokerhill. The lands of this, formerly annexed to the priory of Dartford, and afterwards belonging to Percival Hart, who was honoured by the ſmiles and preſence of queen Elizabeth, belong, with almoſt the whole of the pariſh, to the proprietor of the manor of Eynsford.

LULLINGSTONE.

LULLINGSTONE, anciently written Lolingeſtone, and occaſionally alſo Lullingeſtone, is the laſt village to be deſcribed in the hundred of Axſtane.

The hiſtory of the manor of Lullingſtone, if purſued and explained in detail, would involve many curious and important particulars; but we can only ſelect ſuch of theſe as ſeem more immediately pertinent. This is one of the numerous poſſeſ-

ſions given by William the Conqueror to his brother. To William it again reverted. In the reign of Richard the Second it appears to have belonged to Sir John Peche. There was a gentleman of this name in poſſeſſion of this eſtate and manor in the time of Henry the Seventh, who was of high character for loyalty and valour. He was particularly inſtrumental in oppoſing and thwarting the attempts of the celebrated Perkin Warbeck, and indeed was the cauſe of his final overthrow on Blackheath.

The manor afterwards came into the hands of Sir Percival Hart, and now belongs to Sir John Dixon Dyke. This place is called a village, but in fact it conſiſts only of two or three houſes. The church, however, merits particular mention.

The munificence, united with the elegant taſte of the patron, has made this church a moſt intereſting ſpectacle. The monuments, the ſtyle of the ſeats, but above all, the painted windows, exhibit all together a picture which cannot eaſily be exceeded in elegance or beauty. The ſubjects delineated very curiouſly in the windows, are partly ſcriptural, and partly heraldrical diſtinctions of the preſent family and their remoter anceſtors.

The church is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter. It is a rectory in the gift of Sir John Dyke, and its certified value in Ecton's Theſaurus is 39*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*

Hundred of Codsheath.

THE next hundred, of Codſheath or Codeſede, contains nine different pariſhes, namely—Shoreham, Halſted, Otford, Kemſing, Seale, Sevenoke, Chevening, that is to ſay part of Chevening, Sundriſh, and what is called Woodland in Kingſdown. In this hundred alſo is part of the pariſhes of Speldhurſt and Lyghe. The firſt of theſe to be mentioned is

SHOREHAM.

THIS place is alſo in ancient records denominated Schorham. The manor belongs to the crown, and is part of what is termed the manor of Otford. At Shoreham was formerly a caſtle, to which a diſtinct manor was annexed. This caſtle muſt neceſſarily have been of great antiquity, for one of our moſt correct writers

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on ſubjects of local hiſtory obſerves, that of Shoreham-caſtle only the ruins could be diſcerned in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

The places moſt worthy of notice in the pariſh of Shoreham, are Preſton and New-houſe. The former anciently conſtituted part of the domains of the archbiſhops of Canterbury; latterly it belonged, as it does at preſent, to the family of Borrett, which occupies a very elegant and ſpacious manſion, to which the name of New-houſe has been given. There is only one ſeparate manor in the pariſh of Shoreham, known by the name of Filſton, or Vielſton. This alſo belongs to the Borretts of New-houſe.

There are alſo two premiſes, with conſiderable eſtates annexed, in Shoreham, and which are called Sepham and Planers. Theſe belong to Mr. Polhill of Chipſted, in the ſame county.

Shoreham is a mean village, and has nothing more remarkable belonging to it than a handſome bridge thrown over the Darent, which has two not inelegant arches. The church alſo has ſome claims to commendation. It is a neat, ſimple ſtructure; a vicarage, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and in the gift of the dean and chapter of Weſtminſter. It is what is called a peculiar of the archbiſhop; the meaning of which term is, that having anciently been part of the peculiar poſſeſſions of the archbiſhop, they are not amenable to the juriſdiction of the biſhop in whoſe particular dioceſe they lie.

HALSTED.

HALSTED is an obſcure and poor village; yet, on the approach to it, it preſents an intereſting and pictureſque appearance. It is lofty, being on a gentle eminence; and the hill, or rather hills, on which it is ſituated, are of chalk. The manor probably belonged to the ſee of Canterbury, at leaſt the perſon whom our ancient records firſt mention as its occupier, held it of the archbiſhop. It paſſed in 1738 to the third ſon of the duke of St. Alban's, who by his late majeſty George the Second was created a peer.

This church is alſo a peculiar of the archbiſhop, who has alſo the patronage of the rectory. It is much to be lamented that the very curious ſpecimens of painted glaſs with which the church was once ornamented, are now almoſt wholly deſtroyed.

Halſted

Halſted-place is an elegant manſion in this pariſh, which formerly belonged to the above-mentioned lord Vere; it is now the property of John Sargent, Eſq.

OTFORD.

AT this place we ſhall be delayed ſomewhat longer. Here formerly was an archiepiſcopal palace, and it is alſo of ſome note in the annals of our country.

The name of the village has at different times been written Ottanford, Otefort, Otteford, and Otford. The manor anciently belonged to the ſee of Canterbury, but Henry the Eighth obtained it of archbiſhop Cranmer, in exchange for ſome other eſtates. It now remains with the crown, which grants at pleaſure what is termed the high ſtewardſhip of the honour of Otford, to ſome diſtinguiſhed individual of the county. The preſent high ſteward is the duke of Dorſet.

The palace, of which at preſent there are but inconſiderable remains, was formerly very ſplendid and magnificent. The archbiſhops here, from time to time, kept their court, and exerciſed becoming hoſpitality. It is related of archbiſhop Warham, that he expended in repairing and ornamenting this place a ſum very little ſhort of 40,000*l.* There is a ſpring in the vicinity of the ruins, and which formerly uſed to ſupply the palace, which is called St. Thomas's ſpring. Of this the following miraculous ſtory is related—Thomas à Becket reſided at this palace. His domeſtics complained of a ſcarcity of water, upon which the holy man walked forth with his ſtaff, and at a convenient ſpot ſtruck the earth with it; upon which a ſtream of limpid water burſt forth, and has never ſince ceaſed to flow.

The hiſtory of the manors and other premiſes in this pariſh is involved in ſome obſcurity, of no great importance to our purpoſe to develope. There is a manor called Sergeant's Otford with the Little Park; there is another manor called Danehull, and familiarly Denhall. There is alſo a conſiderable eſtate belonging to Sir Richard Betenſon, known by the appellation of Rye-houſe; there is another called Broughtons.

Two very bloody battles took place in or near Otford; one between the Saxons in ſome civil contention, the other between the Saxons and the Danes. The veſtiges of theſe encounters from time to time appear—ſkeletons have often been found, heads of ſpears and fragments of military weapons. Of theſe the parti-

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culars may be ſeen at length in Camden, and many curious incidents are related in Lambard's Perambulation of this county.

The church or rather chapel of Otford is an adjunct to Shoreham. It was heretofore of much greater repute. The ſaint to whom it was dedicated was ſaid to have the gift of removing barrenneſs; and a fair was annually held at this place, in commemoration of his miracles and beneficial qualities.

The ruins of the palace excite on the view a melancholy emotion; for what contemplative mind can view magnificence exchanged for ſordid obſcurity, luxury for poverty, learning for ignorance, without regretting the imbecility of nature, and the viciſſitudes of fortune?

"Vain end of human ſtrength, of human ſkill,
"Conqueſt, and triumph, and domain, and pomp,
"And eaſe, and luxury."——

"Aſpice murorum moles præruptaque ſaxa
"Obrutaque horrenti vaſta theatra ſitu."

KEMSING.

THE variation which the name of this village has undergone is not a little ſingular. We find it written Cemecinga, Cameſing, and finally Kemſing. The manor in the reign of the ſecond Henry belonged to the earl of Albemarle. Fynes, a gallant ſoldier, and much beloved by Henry the Fifth, with whom he ſerved in France, poſſeſſed this manor in that reign. In the reign of the ſucceeding monarch this gentleman came to an untimely end. Henry the Eighth ſeized the manor of Kemſing on pretence of its belonging by deſcent to his queen, Ann Boleyn, and afterwards gave it to Ann of Cleves.

Queen Elizabeth granted this and other eſtates to Sir Henry Carey, who was afterwards lord Hunſdon, and of whom the following ſingular anecdote is related: He had often ſolicited his royal miſtreſs, who was alſo his couſin, to make him earl of Wiltſhire, thinking that he had a fair claim to this honour in right of his mother Mary, ſiſter to queen Ann Boleyn. Elizabeth was unwilling to comply with his requeſt, which ſo exceedingly preyed upon the young man's mind, that it cauſed a fit of ſickneſs which terminated in his death. When he was dying, Elizabeth paid him a viſit, and childiſhly enough ordered the patent for creating him

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earl of Wiltſhire, to be placed upon his bed, together with his earl's robes, &c. The kindneſs, however, was too late to be efficacious, and the dying nobleman told the queen with great firmneſs, that as ſhe did not eſteem him deſerving this honourable diſtinction when in the vigour of health and ſtrength, he did not on his dying bed think it expedient to accept them.

The preſent poſſeſſor of this manor, under certain limitations, is his grace the duke of Dorſet.

Mention ought to be made of a very ancient eſtate in the pariſh of Kemſing, known by the name of Crowdleham. This has been the property of a reſpectable family of the name of Bunce ever ſince the reign of Henry the Eighth. A gentleman of the name of Bunce now occupies and reſides at Crowdleham.

Kemſing was formerly of much greater note than it is at preſent. Here was formerly a market held weekly on a Monday. A fair is ſtill annually kept here on Eaſter Monday. A tutelar ſaint alſo, whoſe ſuppoſed virtues were very extraordinary and miraculous, brought a great concourſe of people perpetually to the town, and more particularly to the church of Kemſing—this was St. Edith; her image was placed on a pedeſtal in the church-yard, and among other benefits which ſhe imparted to her votaries, her power, on proper application, diſſipated the peſtilence of mildew, and the blights from the corn. St. Edith moreover was a native of the place, and, to mark her affection for her native ſoil, produced a well called St. Edith's well, which appellation it is ſaid ſtill to retain.

The church is a vicarage, annexed to the adjoining pariſh church of Seale, and the patronage is with the duke of Dorſet.

SEALE.

SEALE, the next pariſh to the ſouth of Kemſing, is a mean, dreary, and cheerleſs place. The eye is fatigued with wandering over hundreds of hundreds of acres of uncultivated heath, without any thing to reſt upon but a few woods interſperſed; and theſe are of low, ragged, and miſerable appearance.

This village was formerly denominated De la Sele, and ſometimes La Sele; now as *ſele* is a Saxon word for a manſion of ſome ſplendour, a palace, &c. it is not improbable to ſuppoſe that here was formerly in remoter times ſome ſuch edifice.

The manor of Seale now belongs to the duke of Dorſet, under the ſame, or ſimi-

lar limitations, as the contiguous manor of Kemſing. It is probable that this place gave the additional title to the noble family, the head of which is lord Say and Seale. There are two other manors in this pariſh, one called Hall, the other Stidulfe's-place, which latter has alſo the name of the Wilderneſs.

Hall-place belongs to a gentleman of the name of Thompſon; Stidulfe's-place is the property of a family whoſe name is Pratt, and which originally came from Devonſhire. It was the Bickerſtaffe family which owned this place in the reign of Charles the Firſt, one of whom changed the name from Stidulfe's-place to the Wilderneſs, which it has ever ſince preſerved.

Nulcombe and Stonepit are alſo two conſiderable eſtates belonging to the pariſh of Seale. We before obſerved that this pariſh is annexed to the vicarage of Kemſing, but there are no local circumſtances to juſtify any farther detail in this place.

SEVENOKE.

THERE is no portion of Kent more intereſting than this which we are about to deſcribe, whether we conſider the diverſity of the ſoil, the pictureſque appearance of the country, the number of noble manſions with which it is adorned, and above all, the magnificent palace and beautiful domains of his grace the duke of Dorſet.

Sevenoke, or, as it is familiarly called, Sennoke, is contiguous to Seale to the ſouth. Its appellation hardly requires to be explained. Its ancient name was Seoven acca. The town is built upon a hill, upon which, in more remote times, and not improbably when the place was firſt built upon, ſeven large oak trees were ſtanding.

The manor of Sevenoke formerly belonged to the ſee of Canterbury. Henry the Eighth obtained poſſeſſion of it in exchange for other lands, of archbiſhop Cranmer. Knole alſo belonged to the ſame ſee of Canterbury; for it appears that in the reign of Henry the Sixth, archbiſhop Bourchier bought it of lord Say and Seale. This ſame prelate made a ſplendid addition to the houſe, and conſiderably improved and adorned the adjoining domains. After him different archbiſhops of Canterbury made this the place of their reſidence, and in particular that wiſe and learned character lord chancellor Warham. When the manors of Sevenoke and Knole came into the hands of the ſovereign, they were exchanged by Edward the Sixth, with the favourite of himſelf and predeceſſor, Dudley earl of Warwick, who was afterwards created duke of Northumberland.

In

In the reign of queen Mary theſe premiſes and this noble manſion became the property of the celebrated Reginald Pole, cardinal of Rome, and archbiſhop of Canterbury; a man who was one of the very few upon whom the kindneſs of that princeſs was not improperly beſtowed. On the cardinal's death they again reverted to the crown, and we find that Elizabeth conferred them upon the lord Hunſdon, of whom we have made mention in a preceding part of this work. A deſcendant of this lord Hunſdon conveyed them by ſale to the progenitors of the preſent noble owner, an event which, if we are not miſinformed, took place in the reign of the firſt James. A genealogical detail of the family of Sackville would be foreign from our purpoſe; it is ſufficient to ſay that it may eaſily be traced back to William the Conqueror's arrival in this kingdom. Herbrand de Saccavilla accompanied that monarch, and partook of his glory.

The manſion of Knole is in itſelf ſo intereſting an object, and a deſcription of it ſo indiſpenſable in a work profeſſing to deſcribe all that is curious within a certain diſtance of the metropolis, that we ſhould be ſomewhat perplexed to render juſtice to the place, and at the ſame time ſatisfaction to our readers, did not the following accurate and perſpicuous repreſentation preſent itſelf. It is taken from a book upon which the public has beſtowed its approbation, entitled, Biographical Sketches of eminent Perſons whoſe Portraits form Part of the Duke of Dorſet's moſt valuable and curious Collection of Paintings at Knole; written by Henry Norton Willis, Eſq. whoſe name, however, is not prefixed to the work.

"The architecture of this immenſe pile beſpeaks a variety of dates; the moſt "ancient is probably coeval with the Mareſchals and Bigods: it ſeems as if the "whole of it was antecedent to its becoming the poſſeſſion of the Sackvilles, though "certainly many of this family have very conſiderably repaired it, particularly "Richard, the fifth earl. No part appears of a more modern date than the reign "of Elizabeth. Thomas, the firſt earl of Dorſet, came to reſide at Knole in 1603, "he died in 1607; and as the water-ſpouts, which were put up by him throughout "the houſe, are dated 1605, it would appear that no part of the building is ſubſe-"quent to this period. The garden gates, the ſun-dial, and many other places, "bear the arms of Sackville and Middleſex, a title brought into the family by "Frances Cranfield, heireſs of the earl of Middleſex, and counteſs to the above-"mentioned Richard. In a window in the billiard-room is the portrait of a man

"in

" in armour with this inſcription: *Herbrandus de Sackville præpotens Normannus*
" *intravit Angliam cum Gulielmo Conqueſtore, anno* 1066; and in a room called
" the Carton gallery, are painted on glaſs twenty-one armorial bearings, from the
" above Herbrandus to Richard the third earl of Dorſet: a lineage which, as far as
" the boaſt of pedigree may be allowed a fair pretenſion, can be ſurpaſſed or even
" equalled by few in the kingdom. In another room are ſeveral ſhields of the
" arms of the Cranmer family; this room has the appearance of having once been
" the archbiſhop's private chapel; the window reſembles more thoſe of the places
" of religious worſhip than any other window in the houſe; and the approach to
" it is by two or three ſteps exhibiting all together the appearance of what was once
" an altar.

" The park owes much to nature, and much to its noble proprietor; the line
" of its ſurface is perpetually varying, ſo that new points of view are conſtantly
" preſenting themſelves. The ſoil is happily adapted to the growth of timber;
" ſtately beeches and venerable oaks fill every part of the landſcape; the girth of
" one of theſe oaks exceeds twenty-eight feet, and probably its branches afforded
" ſhade to its ancient lords of Pembroke and Norfolk. The preſent duke has, with
" much aſſiduity and taſte, repaired the gaps made in the woods by one of his
" anceſtors, who, 'Foe to the Dryads of his father's groves,' had unveiled their
" haunts and expoſed their ſecret receſſes to the rude and gariſh eye of day. The
" plantations are not dotted about in cloddiſh clumps, as if they had no reference
" to a whole or general effect, but in broad and ſpacious maſſes cover the ſummits
" of the undulating line, or ſkirt the vallies in eaſy ſweeps. Not to dwell, how-
" ever, on 'barren generalities,' among many others there are two points of view
" which particularly deſerve the viſitor's attention; the one is from the end of a
" valley which goes in a ſouth-weſt direction from the houſe; it forms a gentle
" curve, the groves riſe magnificently on each ſide, and the trees, many of them
" beeches of the largeſt ſize, are generally feathered to the bottom; the manſion
" with its towers and battlements, and a back ground of hills covered with wood,
" terminate the viſta; the time moſt favourable for the proſpect is a little before
" the ſetting ſun, when the fore ground is darkened by a great maſs of ſhade, and
" the houſe, from this circumſtance and its being brightened by the ſun's rays,
" is brought forward in a beautiful manner to the eye. The other view is from a
" riſing ground of the ſame valley, and of a different kind from the former; on

" gaining the ſummit of the hill, a proſpect of vaſt extent burſts at once upon the " eye; woods, heaths, towns, villages, and hamlets, are all before you in bright " confuſion; the ſudden and abrupt manner in which the proſpect preſents itſelf, " being in perfect uniſon with the wildneſs of the ſcenery. The eye takes in the " greater part of Weſt Kent, a conſiderable part of Suſſex, and a diſtant view of " the hills of Hampſhire. The fore ground is woody, the whitened ſteeples riſing " every where among the trees, with gentlemen's ſeats ſcattered round in great " abundance. Penſhurſt, the ancient reſidence of the Sidneys, ſtands conſpicu- " ouſly on a gentle ſwell, forming a middle point between the fore ground and the " South Downs that ſkirt the horizon. It is a venerable manſion ſurrounded with " groves of high antiquity: I know not if the oak, planted the day Sir Philip " Sidney was born, and mentioned by Ben Johnſon, be yet remaining; if it be, I " truſt it meets from the preſent proprietor with every reſpect due to ſo ſacred a " relique. The patriot Algernon, and the poet Waller, have both repoſed beneath " its ſhade, and poſſibly here too Sir Philip ſketched his Arcadian ſcenes."

In the pariſh of Sevenoke, but at ſome diſtance from the town, is the manor of Braborne. After various changes of proprietors this place came into the hands of Henry the Eighth, but in the reign of queen Elizabeth it appears to have been poſſeſſed by Sir Ralph Boſville. The family of Boſville continued to enjoy the eſtate, and occupy the manſion till the year 1761, when it came into the poſſeſſion of Richard Betenſon, Eſq. ſon of Sir Richard Betenſon. The heirs of this gentleman not only enjoy the manor of Braborne, but the lands and eſtate of what is called Blackhall. A very ancient monumental inſcription in the church of Sevenoke proves that the eſtate of Blackhall once belonged to one Robert Totihurſt, who in the year 1512 was a kind of dependant on cardinal Bourchier, who for a conſiderable time enjoyed the ſee of Canterbury.

We ought not to omit mention in this place, of an eſtate in the pariſh of Sevenoke, named Kepington, which, after paſſing through the hands of various poſſeſſors, became the property of the juſtly celebrated Mr. Thomas Farnaby. This learned man was in his greateſt reputation about the year 1638. He is ſaid to have educated almoſt a thouſand of the principal gentlemen of his time, and to have produced more eminent and accompliſhed ſcholars than any other perſon before or ſince, the famous Buſby alone excepted. We ſhould be glad to adorn our pages with many anecdotes of this diſtinguiſhed perſonage, but that the doing this would

would too far intrude upon our preſcribed limits. He exhibited one of the very rare examples of a ſchoolmaſter's acquiring an ample fortune. Mr. Farnaby, however, did this; he purchaſed large landed property in this and the neighbouring pariſhes; and his deſcendants, ſince raiſed to the honour of baronets, enjoy this and ſeveral other ample poſſeſſions.

Neither in ſpeaking of Sevenoke muſt we paſs over Rumſted, or, as it ſeems anciently to have been called, Rumpſhot. Mention is ſomewhere made of a Sir William de Rumpſted, about whom there is a very intereſting traditionary tale, which might have been made conſiſtently enough the burden of an ancient ballad.—William de Sevenoke was deſerted by his nurſe or guardian, and left to periſh by the water, or at the foot of a tree—Sir William de Rumpſted found, preſerved, and educated him. This eſtate of Rumpſted has deſcended to the Lambard family.

There are other eſtates alſo in the pariſh of Sevenoke with diſtinct appellations, and belonging to different owners; ſuch, for example, as Wickhurſt, Pett-houſe, Stidulfe, Hoath, Brytaines, Stothe, &c.; but theſe have no antiquities or peculiarities involved in their hiſtory, of ſufficient importance to juſtify our detaining our readers.

The town of Sevenoke itſelf it is impoſſible not to praiſe. Its ſituation is delightful, and not more pleaſant to the eye of a curious obſerver, than it is both convenient and ſalubrious. There are a number of elegant and ſpacious manſions which enliven and vary the ſpectacle. The town alſo ſeems progreſſively increaſing in population, and conſequent wealth and importance.

Sevenoke, in the reign of Elizabeth, and, if we are not miſtaken, ſince, was the aſſize town. There is now an excellent market every Saturday, and two fairs, the one in ſummer, the other in autumn. The market-place is of ſome antiquity, which indeed is obvious from its preſent appearance. The town has two large and commodious ſtreets. At the termination of one of theſe is a large open ſpace, known by the appellation of the Vine. On this the players at cricket, at which game the men of Kent, and of Sevenoke in particular, are proverbially expert, frequently exhibit their activity and ſkill.

Brook's-place is a manſion at the diſtance of about a mile from Sevenoke, ſituated in the hamlet called Riverhead, a diſtrict of the pariſh, which deſerves mention, were it only from reſpect to the memory of the late gallant lord Amherſt. This was a place of great antiquity; but coming into the hands of lord Amherſt, he pulled

pulled it entirely down, and erected on a contiguous ſpot a neat ſtructure of ſtone, to which his lordſhip gave the name of Montreal, to commemorate the capture of that place by the Britiſh arms.

An elegant obeliſk in theſe domains ſpecifies in detail the many important victories obtained by his majeſty's forces in North America, and principally under the conduct of lord Amherſt. In another diſtrict of this pariſh, named Sevenoke Weald, is Whitley Foreſt, which had at no earlier period than the reign of Elizabeth, contained wild boars, an animal long exterminated in theſe kingdoms, with an exception of a few in one of the royal foreſts.

Sevenoke poſſeſſes, among its various other diſtinctions, an excellent hoſpital for the maintenance of twenty poor people, and a free-ſchool for the benefit of the youth of this place. The hoſpital was founded by Sir William Rumpſted, who was mentioned above, and who in progreſs of time became lord mayor of London. The narrative of this gentleman's life bears no ſmall reſemblance to the late famous Whittington. The ſame benevolence alſo firmly eſtabliſhed the grammar-ſchool; but this in ſucceeding times was conſiderably extended and improved by Sir Ralph Boſville, who flouriſhed in the time of Elizabeth, and called this ſeminary after the name of that venerated princeſs.

A daughter of this Sir Ralph Boſville gave two ſcholarſhips to Jeſus college, Cambridge, for the benefit of two youths, who were to be elected from this grammar-ſchool of Sevenoke. The ſchool itſelf has been ſo improved, that there are no leſs than ſix exhibitions for young men educated there, who may belong to any college of either univerſity.

The church is a large and ſpacious edifice. The tower is of a ſquare form; and ſuch is its elevation, that it forms a pictureſque and intereſting object at various points of the ſurrounding country. The rectory is a ſinecure. The vicarage requires ſeparate inſtitution and ordination. The patronage of both is, according to Ecton's Theſaurus, with David Papillon, Eſq. and his wife. Mr. Haſted, in his Hiſtory of Kent, contradicts this, and ſays that "Dr. Thomas Curteis, rector and "vicar of this pariſh, died in 1775, ſeiſed of this patronage."

Sevenoke is a place of ſuch conſideration, and, as old Philpott obſerves, is a fountain which ſtreams into ſo many branches, that it is not impoſſible but we may have omitted ſome few particulars which readers of ſome deſcription might expect to find. We believe however that every thing more material has been noticed in

its appropriate place, and we conſequently diſmiſs this portion of our work with the honeſt confidence of having exerted a becoming ſhare of diligence and attention.

CHEVENING.

THIS pariſh, which lies next to the pariſh of Sevenoke, is not wholly in the hundred which we are now deſcribing. A portion of it, though not a large one, is in the hundred of Somerden. There appear anciently to have been two manors of the name of Chevening, the Greater and the Leſs. Of theſe the firſt has deſcended to Sir James Daſhwood, the latter belongs to the Right Hon. earl Stanhope.

Another manor in this pariſh bears the appellation of Chepſted alias Wilkes. Mention is made in old records of a John de Chepſted, who poſſeſſed this place; but in later times it was occupied by a family of the name of Wilkes, ſince which it has been indifferently denominated Chepſted alias Wilkes. This alſo is now the property of the above-mentioned earl Stanhope.

A gentleman of the name of Polhill poſſeſſes and occupies a very old manſion called Chepſted-houſe, which in the reign of queen Elizabeth belonged to Robert Cranmer. A ſeparate manor, alſo known by the name of Madam's-court, muſt not be paſſed over without mention. The correct and proper name of theſe domains is Morant's-court. The firſt poſſeſſor of this eſtate, of whom there is notice taken in ancient records, is Thomas de Moraunt, who doubtleſs, as was the cuſtom of theſe times, was ſo named from the place which he inhabited. It is now the property of a family whoſe name is Price.

Charles Polhill, Eſq. the owner of Chepſted-houſe, is alſo proprietor of a manor, which is likewiſe in the pariſh of Chevening, and called Donington, familiarly by the neighbourhood Dunton.

There is nothing in the village itſelf, in the church, or indeed in the neighbourhood, either to require or juſtify ſpecific detail. The church is a rectory, to which the archbiſhop of Canterbury preſents. Its value in the king's books, as appears from Ecton's Theſaurus, is 21*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; but there exiſts an obligation to pay from the profits of the living a ſmall annual ſum to the rector of Shoreham.

We may, perhaps, be excuſed by ſome readers for adding, that the houſe inhabited by lord Stanhope was originally built from a deſign of Inigo Jones, and that

the church of Chevening contains elegant monuments of the Lennard family, which by the marriage of the ſiſter and heir of Gregory Fynes, lord Dacre of the South, became entitled to that barony in the reign of James I. Thomas, a deſcendant of this marriage, was created earl of Suſſex, who leaving no male iſſue, that title became extinct, but the barony became veſted in Ann, his laſt ſurviving daughter; ſhe married Richard Barrett Lennard, Eſq., Henry Roper, lord Teynham, and laſtly, Robert Moore, a younger ſon of Henry earl of Drogheda: by the firſt marriage ſhe had the elegant and judicious Thomas Lennard Barrett, who became in her right lord Dacre, but having had no iſſue, and dying in 1786, the title came to Trevor Charles Roper, Eſq. grandſon of lady Dacre, who dying without iſſue in 1794, the title came to the preſent lady Dacre, Gertrude widow of the late Thomas Brand, of the Hoo in Hertfordſhire, Eſq.

SUNDRISH.

THIS place, commonly called Sundridge, ſhould properly be named as we have written it; at leaſt Sundriſh is the orthography according to various deeds and records of reſpectable authority. The manor of Sundriſh is now the property of a family of the name of Hyde, reſident in ſome other province. Anciently it was part of the poſſeſſions of the archbiſhops of Canterbury.

Oveney's-green, ſometimes called Overney, is a diſtinct manor in the pariſh of Sundriſh, and now the property of earl Stanhope. Brook-place is an eſtate of ſome conſideration, and alſo in this pariſh. It belongs to a gentleman of the name of Ward—this is not a manor. Henden is, which alſo is ſometimes written Hethenden. This place formerly belonged to the family of Le Deſpencer, the principal individuals of which were ſo obnoxious to the people, and ſuch favourites with the ſovereign in the reign of the ſecond Edward; the father and the ſon in that calamitous reign were both ſacrificed to the fury of the people by means the moſt barbarous as well as ignominious.

Henden afterwards came into the poſſeſſion of the famous earl of Warwick, who was vulgarly, though not improperly, denominated the King-maker; but in the reign of Henry the Eighth it appears to have belonged to the crown. It is at preſent poſſeſſed by the heirs of Sir William Hoſkins.

There is a manſion of conſiderable antiquity in this pariſh named Combe-bank. We have before had occaſion to intimate that *comb* is a Saxon word, the meaning of

which is field or camp: nor is it at all improbable that formerly there was in this place or neighbourhood ſome military ſtation or camp: urns and other fragments of antiquity have at different periods been dug up here, and ſome of our moſt ſagacious antiquaries have not ſcrupled to aſſert, that this was once a regular place of interment for Roman ſoldiers.

Combe-place has for a long time belonged to the Argyle family, and, if we are not miſtaken in our information, it is at the preſent period occupied by lord Frederick Campbell, member for Argyleſhire.

His lordſhip the biſhop of London, of whoſe good and amiable qualities we are happy in every opportunity of making honourable mention, has a neat cottage in this village. The biſhop once enjoyed this benefice from the gift of archbiſhop Secker, and his attachment to the place was ſo ſtrong that he has retained a manſion here as a place of retirement from the buſtle, noiſe, and occupations of the metropolis.

The village of Sundriſh itſelf is convenient, agreeable, and ſalubrious; the ſtream of the Darent flows through it in a double channel, and it is croſſed by the high road to Maidſtone.

It may not be impertinent to obſerve, that this obſcure village gives an Engliſh title to the duke of Argyle, who is alſo baron Sundridge of Combe-bank. Sundriſh is a rectory, of which the archbiſhop of Canterbury is patron, and its value in the king's books is 22*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

BRASTED.

THERE is ſome difficulty in the deſcription of this pariſh—one part of it is within the hundred of Weſterham and Eatonbridge; it has alſo the very uncommon peculiarity of a diſtinct and appropriate diſtrict. This is called the Ville of Braſted, which is unconnected with, and totally independent of any hundred.

We are ſomewhat particular in remarking the variations at different periods in the orthography of the places we deſcribe, becauſe we deem it both curious and important to mark the progreſs of language from barbariſm to refinement. We make no apology, therefore, for obſerving, that what is now written Braſted, has undergone the different changes of Bradeſtede, Brieſtede, and Braſted. There is little doubt but the name was originally applied from the conſtruction and form of the village.

lage. It conſiſts of one long ſtreet: now in Saxon *ſtede* is ſynonimous with *brede*, and means any thing of length.

Long antecedent to the conqueſt of this iſland by William the Firſt, the manor of Braſted can be traced to have belonged to the archbiſhops of Canterbury in right of their ſee. It is unimportant to follow it in its progreſs through the hands of a multitude of proprietors; it now belongs to earl Stanhope.

There is an eſtate in Braſted known by the name of Braſted-place, and which anciently was called by the different names of Crow-place and Stocket-place. Two families doubtleſs of theſe names, at ſome time or other, poſſeſſed or occupied this eſtate. Braſted-place at preſent belongs to lord Willoughby de Broke.

An eſtate and conſiderable domain annexed called Delaware, and alſo in this pariſh of Braſted, merits notice, on account of its great antiquity. There was a manſion in this place, and occupied by a gentleman of the reſpectable name of Delaware, in the reign of the ſecond Henry; at the preſent period the property of Mr. Streatfeild.

The village of Braſted has in itſelf nothing which merits particular attention; yet there is ſomething picturesque in its general aſpect. The two rivers of Eden and Darent ſeverally croſs the place.

The church is a rectory, in the patronage of the archbiſhop of Canterbury; its value in the king's books is 22*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

Hundred of Westerham and Eatonbridge.

THE hundred thus divided conſiſts of no more than the two pariſhes, each being a hundred within itſelf.

Weſterham is the next pariſh to the weſt of Braſted. Its name explains itſelf—ham is a village, and Weſterham is the weſtern village. The inhabitants and neighbourhood familiarly denominated this place Weſtram.

Some of our readers may probably be pleaſed with our occaſional notice of the variations in the orthography of places, and for our own parts we cannot think any obſervations unimportant which tend to extend and improve the knowledge of our language. We make no apology, therefore, for remarking, that in Domeſday-book what is now written Weſterham and Weſtram was Oiſtreham.

The manor of Weſterham was held of Edward the Confeſſor by the famous earl

Godwin. It was granted by Henry the Eighth to Sir John Greſham, lord mayor of London; from him, in various lines, it has finally ſettled with the family of Warde.

The other manors in this pariſh are thoſe of Squeries and Broxham. Squeries, which is of conſiderable antiquity, belongs to the ſame family of Warde: Broxham is the property of the Petleys of Riverhead. Gaſum alias Well-ſtreet, and Valens alias Hill-park, are two eſtates of ſome conſideration in the pariſh of Weſtram, the latter in particular. Hill-park is its modern appellation. It was called Valens till ſold by an Iriſh gentleman of the name of M'Guire, who acquired great property in the Eaſt Indies, to the earl of Hillſborough, who after conſiderably ornamenting the place, gave it the name of Hill-park.

Weſtram had the honour of giving birth to two very diſtinguiſhed characters in the Britiſh annals, though in far different lines. The one was Hoadly biſhop of Wincheſter; the other the gallant general Wolfe, who died ſo nobly at Quebec. With reſpect to the virtues and talents of the firſt of theſe characters there are varieties of opinions. Some diſpute his integrity, and call him a republican prelate—Pope cenſures his abilities as a writer—

———Swift for cloſer ſtyle,
But Hoadly for a period of a mile.

Dr. Lowth calls him—"The great advocate of civil and religious liberty."

With reſpect to general Wolfe there is no difference of opinion; all agree in the juſtice of the following inſcription to his memory, which not being generally known we are happy to tranſcribe:

"General James Wolfe,
Who,
Dauntleſs but deliberate,
Under numerous difficulties,
September 2, 1759,
Engaged to employ his little army
For the honour and intereſt
Of his country,
And
In a few days after
Glorioufly fulfilled his promiſe
In the conqueſt of
Quebec,
At the expenſe of his life."

The

The following incident, which, according to evidence the moſt authentic that can be adduced, happened in this pariſh, is too remarkable to be omitted; and more particularly in a country where the phenomena of earthquakes, or any of thoſe deviations from the ordinary courſe of nature which occaſion changes of things and places, ſo very rarely occur. We accordingly copy the account of it from a book which, from its general character, we have gladly reſpected upon any queſtion where authenticity was concerned.

"REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES.

"In the year 1596 the following aſtoniſhing ſcene happened in this pariſh, in "two cloſes, ſeparated from each other only by a hedge, about a mile and a half "ſouthward from the town, not far from the eaſt end of the common highway, "called Ockham-hill, leading from London towards Buckhurſt in Suſſex; when "on December 18, a part of them containing twelve perches long, was found to "be ſunk ſix feet and an half deep, the next morning ſixteen feet more, the third "morning eighty feet more at leaſt; and ſo from day to day. This great trench "of ground, containing in length eighty perches, and in breadth twenty-eight, "with the hedges and trees thereon, began to looſe itſelf from the reſt of the ground "lying round about it, and therewithal to move, ſlide, and ſhoot ſouthward, day "and night, for the ſpace of eleven days. The ground of two water-pits, the "one having ſix feet depth of water, and the other twelve feet at leaſt, and about "four perches over in breadth, having ſundry tufts of alders and aſhes growing "in their bottoms, with a great rock of ſtone underneath, were not only removed "out of their places, and carried ſouthward, but mounted aloft and became hills, "with their ſedge, flags, and black mud upon the tops of them, higher than the "face of the water which they had forſaken; and in the place from which they "had been removed, other ground which lay higher, had deſcended, and received "the water on it. In one place of the plain field there was a great hole made, by "the ſinking of the earth, thirty feet deep; a hedge, with its trees, was carried "ſouthward, and there were ſeveral other ſinkings of the earth, in different places, "by which means where the higheſt hills had been, there were the deepeſt dales, "and where the loweſt dales were before, there was the higheſt ground.

"The whole meaſure of the breaking ground was at leaſt nine acres; the eye-"witneſſes to the truth of which were, Robert Boſtock, Eſq. juſtice of the peace;

"Sir

" Sir John Studley, vicar; John Dowling, gentleman; and many others of the " neighbourhood.

" In the ſpring of 1756 at Toy's-hill, about a mile and a half eaſtward from the " above, a like circumſtance was obſerved, in a field of two acres and an half, the " ſituation of which was on the ſide of a hill, inclining toward the ſouth, the land " of which kept moving imperceptibly till the effect appeared, for ſome time, by " which means the northern ſide was ſunk two or three feet, and became full of " clefts and chaſms, ſome only a foot deep, others as large as ponds, ſix or eight " feet deep, and ten or twelve feet ſquare, and moſt of them filled with water. " Part of a hedge moved about three rods ſouthward, and though ſtraight before, " then formed an angle with its two ends. Another hedge ſeparated to the diſ- " tance of eight feet; the ſouthern part, which was on a level before with the reſt of " the field, after this overhung it like a precipice, about the height of twelve feet; " and the land on each ſide, which had not moved, was covered with the reſt, which " folded over it, to the height of ſix or ſeven feet."——There is no poſſibility to know why theſe extraordinary circumſtances happened ſo near together, though at ſo great a diſtance of time.

The pariſh is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and in the deanery of Malling: the church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a handſome building, and though large, not ſufficiently ſo for the inhabitants; Eleanor, queen of Edward I. gave the advowſon of it, with its chapels, to the prior and convent of Canterbury; it is now veſted in Mrs. Harriet Bodicoate, who has preſented it to the Rev. Richard Board. It is valued in the king's books, including the chapel of Eatonbridge annexed, at 19*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*

EATONBRIDGE.

EATONBRIDGE lies to the ſouth of Weſterham, taking its name from its having had a bridge built over the Eden, a ſmall river, which is one of the heads of the Medway; it has been written Eddelneſbrege, Edilnebrigg, and in Latin, Pons Edelmi. Part of it towards the eaſt is in the hundred of Somerden. Here the weald, or woody part of Kent commences. The land is rich; but being either clay or ſwampy, it is extremely unpleaſant to travellers, and in winter the croſs roads are almoſt impaſſable, but it is not unwholeſome. The people being more detached, become leſs refined; they, however, are wealthy; and the land pays well to the owner,

owner, as the country every where abounds in wide hedge-rows of timber trees, eſpecially oak; the houſes are chiefly of that material, and which was ſo common a mode of building in former ages: every thing here reminds the traveller of the ſituation and the mode of living in the beginning of the laſt century, or what the ſtate of the people in the moſt diſtant parts of England is now.

The river Eden croſſes the village, which has nothing remarkable to detain us; but this diſtrict is rich in its number of manors, paramount to which was that of Weſterham. The firſt to be mentioned is the manor of Stangrave, or Eatonbridge; which, like all others, once gave name to the family that poſſeſſed it; from the Stangraves it paſſed to John Dynley, who ſold it to Hugh de Audley, earl of Glouceſter, whoſe heir took it to the Staffords, who loſt it by the attainture of the laſt duke of Buckingham of that name; when paſſing through various other hands, it is now veſted in Mrs. Sophia Streatfeild, widow of Thomas Streatfeild, Eſq. of Oxſted, in Surry, who holds courts baron within the manor.

Stangrave-farm, owned by the Baſſetts, claims the right to be eſteemed a manor. Sharnden likewiſe did, but it is now generally reckoned as part of that of Stangrave or Eatonbridge: it belonged anciently to the Cobhams, to whom Edward III. granted a charter of free warren; it now belongs to Mr. James Glover, who reſides here. Marſh-green, whoſe manerial rights are appendant to that of Cowdham, is poſſeſſed by another branch of the Streatfeild family. Brown-manor gave the name of Brown to its lords: the Hon. Mr. Lumley now owns it, having purchaſed it of John Boddington, Eſq. Hilder's-farm, ſold with it, is called a manor; as is Scanes, the property of Henry Streatfeild, Eſq.; Crouch-houſe, belonging to Mr. Richard Killick; and Coben Bere, to John Major Henniker, Eſq. Theſe are all the places of notoriety in Eatonbridge, except Gabriels, a ſeat built by one of the Seyliards of Braſted; from which family it paſſed to that of Oatley, and from them to the Stanfords, one of whom now reſides in it.

As we have given a relation of ſome remarkable circumſtances having happened in Weſterham pariſh, we cannot omit two others, which were no leſs wonderful in this, and alſo from the ſame author.——"An extraordinary and ſurpriſing agita-
"tion of the waters, though without any perceptible motion of the earth, having
"been obſerved in different parts of England, both maritime and inland, on
"November 1, 1755; and on the ſame day, and chiefly about the time that the
"more violent commotions of both earth and waters were ſo extenſively affected

" in many very diſtant parts of the globe, the like phenomenon appeared in this " pariſh in a pond, an acre in ſize, acroſs which was a poſt and rail fence, which " the water almoſt covered; when ſome perſons near it hearing a noiſe, as if ſome- " thing had tumbled into the water, haſtened to ſee what it was, when to their ſur- " priſe they ſaw the water open in the middle, ſo that they could ſee the poſt and " rail almoſt to the bottom, and at the ſame time they obſerved the water daſhing up " over a bank, about two feet high, and perpendicular to the pond. They did not " feel the leaſt motion upon the ſhore, nor was there any wind, but a dead calm.

" On January 24, 1758, about two o'clock in the morning, a ſlight ſhock of " an earthquake was felt in this pariſh, and the adjacent parts, which ſhook the " furniture of the houſes, and went off with a noiſe like a ſmall guſt of wind. " It alarmed many of the inhabitants, but no damage enſued."

Small as this place is, it has its fair, which is held on St. Mark's day, April 25, for cattle, toys, &c.

The church or chapel, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is large and handſome, with a ſpire; it has ſome painted glaſs that is good, and there are the remains of a rood loft, which is now become rare in many of our churches.

Hundred of Somerden.

THE next hundred eaſtward is called Somerden; but as great part of this lies beyond the bounds we have preſcribed ourſelves, we ſhall take only the pariſhes of Hever, Chidingſtone, Penſhurſt, and Lyghe, omitting thoſe of Cowden and Speldhurſt; we have ſelected the above pariſhes becauſe they lie oppoſite to Tunbridge-wells, which we mean to particularize, though lying a little farther than the ſpace allotted; and beſides, it was thought important to the work to ſpeak of Penſhurſt, the reſidence of the great family of Sidney. The court leet of this hundred is appendant upon the honour of Otford. Domeſday-book is ſilent reſpecting the whole of Somerden hundred; but this is general to all the places lying within the weald of Kent, Hadlow and Tudeley alone excepted; we can account for this only from its having then been looked upon as a barren, uncultivated waſte, like ſome of the northern counties of this kingdom, which were likewiſe omitted in that very ſelect remain, which by the munificence of his preſent majeſty has been elegantly printed *verbatim et literatim*.

HEVER.

HEVER.

THE ancient name of this pariſh was Heure, or Evere; the river Eden runs through it. The pariſh is long and narrow, extending from north to ſouth; it is very woody, and its oaks are of a great ſize. An inconſiderable part of it has the name of the borough Linckhill, which, with other premiſes, are ſubject, as to manerial rights, to Great Orpington, poſſeſſed by Sir John-Dixon Dyke, Bart.

The manor of Hever, from an early period, was the property of the family of the de Heure, or Hevers, one of whom in the reign of Edward I. had great contentions with the abbot of St. Auguſtine, which were compromiſed by the abbot giving him a grant of the lands here, to hold by knight's ſervice. In the reign of Edward III. William de Hever rebuilt, and by a licence from that monarch embattled the manſion; upon his death theſe eſtates fell to his two daughters and coheirs, married into the families of Cobham and Brocas; whence, to diſtinguiſh the property of each, they took the names of Hever-Cobham and Hever-Brocas: but the deſcendants of the firſt Brocas diſpoſing of his diviſion to a Cobham, that family enjoyed the whole. In the reign of Henry IV. Sir Thomas Cobham ſold the entire eſtate to Sir Jeffrey Boleyn, lord mayor of London, the founder of one of the moſt ſplendid fortunes that any family ever poſſeſſed in this kingdom; and what was very ſingular, this tradeſman allied himſelf to the lord Hoo and Haſtings, at a time when nobility and commerce were at the greateſt diſtance from each other; the Boleyns were formed to be ſet at the pinnacle of worldly grandeur, but only to be exquiſitely miſerable. Sir Thomas Boleyn his heir, by the daughter and coheir of the earl of Ormond, became the father of Thomas Boleyn, viſcount Rochford, earl of Wiltſhire and Ormond, and knight of the garter; he married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, duke of Norfolk, a couple the admiration of England; the parents of Ann Boleyn, the ill-fated wife of a ſuſpicious, ſanguinary monarch, who "ſpared no man in his anger, nor woman in his luſt:" ſhe and her brother, the elegant lord Rochford, fell victims of imprudence, but not of guilt, upon a ſcaffold in the Tower; the mother happily had died the preceding year; the wretched father, overwhelmed with honours and misfortunes, ſunk into the grave two years after, and with others of his family lies buried in this church, under a cumbrous monument, a fit object for contemplation for the chriſtian, the philoſopher, and the politician. He who could not utter a ſigh for the fate of ſo illuſtrious a family, muſt

be as hard as the marble that gives us his effigies, harder than the heart of the fickle, inconſtant, inflexible Henry, who, after years of connubial mortification, lamented the fate of ſo unfortunate a lady as Ann, and execrated the lady Rochford her ſiſter-in-law, who had ruined the family of her lord, and who at length, promoting the gallantries of another of Henry's queens, Catherine Howard, paid a juſt forfeiture with her life. We ſhall be pardoned ſaying ſo much of ſo extraordinary a family as that of Boleyn, when it is recollected that this was one of their chief ſeats, and where Henry ſpent perhaps ſome of the happieſt days of his life, in courting the elegant, accompliſhed, gay, witty "Miſtreſs Ann Boleyn," the mother of that incomparable princeſs, queen Elizabeth. The chamber in which Ann ſlept ſtill retains her name.

After the death of the earl of Wiltſhire, Henry ſeized this ſeat and manor in right of his late wife, and added to the eſtate by purchaſes from Sir William Boleyn, and William Boleyn Clerk, and in his thirty-ſecond year ſettled them on another of his queens, Ann of Cleves, who, more happy than her nameſake, was only divorced; this once wife, and afterward adopted ſiſter of Henry, died here in the reign of Philip and Mary, greatly reſpected by the Engliſh, proving by her conduct that ſhe deſerved a better fate; ſhe, however, if not happy, was not miſerable: ſhe preferred ſtaying in England to returning to Germany; ſhe was certainly of a pliable nature, veering to all Henry's religious opinions, to thoſe of Edward VI. and Mary I.: more oppoſite ones could not be. She rode with the princeſs Elizabeth, afterwards queen, to the coronation of Mary. Her corpſe was taken from this place, and interred with great funeral pomp on the ſouth ſide of the high altar in Weſtminſter abbey, where her monument is of freeſtone, adorned with the arms of Cleves, and the letters A. C. knit together; it has been engraved by the Society of Antiquaries. Such was the honour that attended Ann of Cleves, even when dead, whilſt poor Ann Boleyn's beauteous form was thrown into a coffer, uſed to keep arrows in, and buried amongſt the attainted in the chapel of the Tower, where it ſtill remains without the ſmalleſt memorial, though it would have been an act of pious duty in Elizabeth to have removed it to a more honourable receptacle.—The fate of theſe illuſtrious unfortunates has kept us too long, perhaps; we ſhall, therefore, return to remark, that queen Mary granted the ſeat, manor, and eſtates, to her favourite Sir Edward Waldegrave, lord chamberlain of her houſehold, who died in the Tower in the beginning of Elizabeth's reign, more for his religion, than his

politics; his deſcendants were ennobled by James II. with whom one of them went into France, and died in 1689. His more fortunate ſon was created earl of Waldegrave, who conveyed the whole of his poſſeſſions in Hever to Sir William Humfreys, Bart. in 1715, being at that time lord mayor of London; he was of Welſh deſcent. This family ending in two coheirs, they with their huſbands joined in conveying Hever-caſtle, with the manors of Hever-Cobham and Hever-Brocas, to Timothy Waldo, of Clapham, Eſq. afterwards knighted; he left the whole, with near thirteen hundred acres of land round it, to his widow, lady Waldo; their only child is married to George Medley, of Suſſex, Eſq.

It would be unpardonable not to mention Hever-caſtle as it at preſent remains. Like moſt other ancient reſidences it is moated; the river Eden being led round the caſtle, its approach is by a draw-bridge. The entrance is noble: within is a quadrangle ſurrounded by offices, and the great hall; at the farther end of which is a large oak table raiſed a ſtep higher than the reſt of the floor, the conſtant accompaniment to the halls of the great, in ancient time, now confined only to the farm-houſes of the diſtant provinces. You are led up to the bed-chambers by a grand ſtaircaſe, which opens alſo to a long gallery; its ceiling is much ornamented with foliage in ſtucco: the rooms have oaken wainſcot unpainted. On one ſide of the gallery you are ſhown a ſmall cabinet or receſs, with an aſcent of two ſteps; it has only a ſingle ſeat with two returns in it, where ten or a dozen perſons might place themſelves: tradition relates that king Henry uſed it as a throne when he came hither; but this ſeems improbable, from the ſmallneſs of the room. On one ſide of the large window at the fartheſt end of the gallery, in the floor, is a part which lifts up, and diſcovers a paſſage deep and dark, which goes a conſiderable way, but not ſo far, we ſuppoſe, as the moat: it is called the dungeon: moſt caſtles had ſuch a receptacle for culprits, and they were ſeldom without unhappy occupants. They ſhow a chamber now with its window walled up, in one of the towers ſaid to have been a place of impriſonment for the queen, when in diſgrace; but ſhe was ſent to the Tower immediately after Henry withdrew his protection from her, and ſhe never left it; her days whilſt here were all ſweet and pleaſant, undreaming of the coming ſtorm. In an adjoining cloſet is a ſliding panel called by her name; perhaps through this the royal viſitant ſtole ſoftly to tell his tale of love. The windows have been adorned with painted glaſs: the arms of the Boleyns, their alliances, and even the Waldegraves remain.

It is ſaid, and probably with truth, that whenever Henry with his ſuit of attendants intended to come to Hever-caſtle, he uſed to wind his bugle horn on the top of the hill from whence it was viſible, and within reach of the ſound; by which mean his approach was announced, and the fair lady made ready to receive her ſovereign bedecked with ſmiles, and adorned with ſimple elegance, for ſhe neither loved, nor did jewels heighten her charms, lord Ruſſell declaring, the richer ſhe was dreſſed the more ordinary ſhe appeared; and on that account it was, that when led forth a ſacrificatory victim to Henry's violence, ſhe never looked more handſome, as Sir William Kingſtone, lieutenant of the Tower, wrote to king Henry.

There was, until within forty years, a court baron regularly held for each of theſe manors; ſince then, as they are conſolidated, only one, the juriſdiction of which extends over moſt of this, and ſeveral of the adjoining pariſhes, being very extenſive.

Seyliards is a ſeat which gave name and reſidence to a family which were created baronets, and branched out into the ſeveral pariſhes of Braſted, Eatonbridge, Chidingſtone, and Boxley, all in Kent: the eſtate belonging to this manor of Seyliards lies partly in this, and partly in the two former pariſhes. From the Seyliards it came to the Petleys, from whom it was purchaſed by the Lambardes. Multon Lambarde of Sevenoke, Eſq. is the preſent poſſeſſor.

Hever church is a neat ſtructure, but ſmall; it has a ſpire; it ſtands at the end of the village, and is dedicated to St. Peter, and is within the deanery of Shoreham, and juriſdiction of Rocheſter: the rectory is valued at 15*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.* It was ſubject to an annual payment of 2*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* then a conſiderable ſum, to the priory of Combwell, in Goudhurſt. The preſent incumbent is the Rev. Stafford New.

CHIDINGSTONE.

THIS pariſh was anciently denominated Cidingſtane; ſtane being the name of a ſtone, it makes the word leſs changed than is uſual; for moſt modern ones are ſo corrupted, that if it was not for deeds and other muniments, it would be impoſſible to ſuppoſe the one could relate to what was of ſo different an orthography.

Chidingſtone is about ſix miles long from north to ſouth, and about two wide. The Eden here ſalutes the Medway: a branch of the latter riſing at Gravely-hill, in Suſſex, bends its paſſage eaſtwards, dividing that county and Kent. Though in

the weald, it has many pretty rural pleaſant ſpots: amongſt theſe we ſhall mention Wickhurſt-green, Bow-beach, Hill-beach, Carey's-croſs, and Raneſley-heath. The village lies near a mile diſtant from the Eden: from its elevated ſituation it had the name of High-ſtreet.

Its manors are numerous: that of Chidingſtone-Cobham obtained its additional name from having been poſſeſſed by the family of Cobham, who enjoyed it from the time of Edward III. until the reign of Edward IV. when by a female it paſſed into the hands of the Boroughs, or Burys, who became barons; they alienated it in the reign of queen Elizabeth to the family of Streatfeild, who having erected a ſeat here called High-ſtreet-houſe, have made it their reſidence ever ſince, and from whence many branches have diſperſed themſelves into various parts of this county: it is now the reſidence of Henry Streatfeild, Eſq.

The manor of Chidingſtone-Burgherſh or Burgherſt, anciently Burwaſh-court, owed its latter name to a family of great eminence in this county, called Burgherſh, but by the commonalty Burwaſh; who conveyed it away, and after going through a variety of poſſeſſors, became veſted in judge Willoughby, deſcended from a younger branch of the lords Willoughby of Parham; who in the reign of Henry VIII. obtained an act of parliament to diſgavel this manor, his ſeat of Bore-place, and other eſtates in this pariſh—a proof that he thought it was no privilege to ſo enjoy his lands. About this period many Kentiſh gentlemen of great eſtates procured their lands to be diſgavelled; but they have gone through ſo many hands, and are ſo widely ſcattered, that at this time it is ſcarcely poſſible to determine what is ſo diſgavelled, as a treatiſe upon this kind of tenure, publiſhed ſome years ago, acquaints us. The Willoughbys ſold this manor to the Seyliards, and they to the Streatfeilds; ſo that being now held by Henry Streatfeild, of High-ſtreet-houſe, Eſq. as well as the other of Chidingſtone-Cobham, they are now conſolidated, and have unitedly one court baron.

The ſeat of Bore-place, the manſion of the De Bores, with the manor of Milbroke, was diſpoſed of by them in the reign of Henry VI. to John Alphew, who rebuilt the former, and dying, left his two daughters his heirs; Margaret, one of them, took the ſeat and manor to Sir Robert Read, lord chief juſtice of the common pleas, who much enlarged Bore-place: Bridget, the eldeſt of his four daughters and coheirs, brought theſe eſtates to Sir Thomas Willoughby, alſo lord chief juſtice of the common pleas, who ſtill farther enlarged the ſeat. In the reign of James I. the whole

whole came by ſale to Mr. Bernard Hyde, the benevolent citizen of London; from his family they were purchaſed by the Streatfeilds, and are now a part of the eſtates of the gentleman of that name of High-ſtreet-houſe, who in right of his manor of Milbroke holds a court baron.

The manor of Bowzell, formerly Boreſell, rather belongs to Chevening pariſh; it has been enjoyed by the Cobhams, Boroughs or Burghs, Whitleys, Bonnells, and is now the property of the baronet family of Rycroft.

Raneſley, anciently written Rendeſley, is a manor which was at an early period owned by the family of Rendeſley or Renneſley; it came afterwards to the Alphews, the Reads, Willoughbys, Bonds, and other families, until it veſted in that of the preſent poſſeſſor, John-Shelley Sidney, Eſq. by the will of his grandmother.

The rectory is a peculiar, and in the gift of the archbiſhop of Canterbury, and lies in the deanery of Shoreham; the church is large and handſome, having three aiſles and as many chancels, with a ſteeple; there are ſome good monuments of the Streatfeild family, and of ſome other gentry buried there: the preferment is conſiderable, being valued in the king's books at 28*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.*; it is now held by the Rev. Sackville-Spencer Ball, L. L. B. alſo rector of Withiam in Suſſex.

PENSHURST.

STILL more eaſtward is Penſhurſt, meaning high or lofty wood; hurſt or herſt is the old word for wood in this part of the kingdom: ſome centuries ago it was written Penneſherſt; but its moſt ancient name was Penceſtre, or, as it was uſually termed, Pencheſter, ſignificant of a high fortification or camp having been built here by the Romans.

The Eden here meanders in ſeparate ſtreams, but uniting alſo with the more noble Medway directs its courſe towards Tunbridge. Some part of the pariſh is ſwampy, which makes the roads unpleaſant; its woods are very beautiful, and the timber extremely fine: in Penſhurſt-park was felled, a few years ago, a ſingle tree which had not leſs than twenty-one tons in it, or eight hundred and forty feet of timber; this tree had acquired the name of Broad Oak, from its wide-ſpreading branches; there is an engraving of it. Here is a fair held on July 1, for pedlary and other wares.

This pariſh has a very conſiderable part of it held of the honour of Otford, ſubordinate

ordinate to which is the manor of Penſhurſt-Halimote, or Otford-Weald, that ſpreads itſelf over Chidingſtone, Hever, and Cowden pariſhes. Theſe were held of the archbiſhops of Canterbury, but who had little more than a nominal claim; and this was paſſed away with Otford by the meek and pious Cranmer to Henry VIII. in exchange; the crown has conſtantly retained it, except that, during the uſurpation, the republican government had conveyed it to colonel Robert Gibbon, who loſt it at the Reſtoration: the tenure is partly gavel-kind, and, which is rare in Kent, partly copyhold. But excepted out of this juriſdiction is Hallborough, in the lowy of Tunbridge, owning Mr. Streatfeild for its lord, and Chafford, within the cogniſance of the court of the dutchy of Lancaſter. The honour of Otford, as well as the manor of Penſhurſt, is held by the duke of Dorſet, as high ſteward of both, under the crown; but the fee-farm rents were alienated from it by Charles II. to the Daſhwood family, and it is now enjoyed by Sir James Daſhwood, Bart.

The manor of Penſhurſt came through a variety of families from that of de Peneſhurſte or Pencheſter, until it veſted in John duke of Bedford, third ſon of Henry IV. who dying without iſſue, it deſcended to his brother Humphry duke of Glouceſter, on whoſe violent death it veſted in the crown, which granted it to the Stafford family, to whom it was loſt by the attainture of Edward duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Henry VIII. who was ſo pleaſed with the ſituation, that he retained it in his own hands, purchaſed lands adjoining to it, and enlarged the park: Well-place was part of theſe acquired premiſes, with an eſtate belonging to it, containing 170 acres of land, purchaſed of John, and William Fry. The king encloſed the whole within a pale fence, though the conveyance was not completed until the reign of Edward VI. who gave the park to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, afterwards duke of Northumberland; but he, in the fourth year of that reign, exchanged it with other lands; when the manor, ſeat, and all its lands, were granted to Sir Ralph Fane, to hold *in capite* by knight's ſervice; but this unhappy gentleman fell a victim to the factions which diſgraced the government under this young monarch; he was put to death in the ſixth year of that reign, on Tower-hill, as an accomplice to the equally unfortunate duke of Somerſet, his patron. The eſtate reverted to the crown.

King Edward in the ſame year, by letters patents, granted the whole to Sir William Sidney and his heirs; the premiſes are deſcribed to be his majeſty's manor and park of Penſhurſt, le-court lands in Penſhurſt and Chidingſtone, the manor of

Endsfield, called Endsfield-farm, and his park of Lyghe, by eſtimation 300 acres of land, to hold by the ſame ſervice by which they had been granted to Sir Ralph Fane. It would be unpardonable to paſs by this illuſtrious family of Sidney with only a ſlight mention.

Sir William, the eldeſt ſon and heir of a knight, one of the heroes of Flodden-field, chamberlain and ſteward to prince Edward, and at his acceſſion, of his privy chamber, was educated with the young monarch, though ſome years older; knighted by king Edward, made one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber, and ſent ambaſſador into France when only twenty-one years old. He ſupported his expiring maſter in his arms, after whoſe premature death he retired to Penſhurſt to indulge his grief; by this the misfortunes that overwhelmed the duke of Northumberland, his father-in-law, were avoided; and he enabled to give an aſylum to the remainder of that ruined family. Queen Mary truſted and honoured, more than employed him; queen Elizabeth elected him a knight of the garter, made him a privy counſellor, thrice lord deputy of Ireland; and he died lord preſident of the marches of Wales, May 5, 1586. His body was conveyed with vaſt pomp to Penſhurſt, and his heart depoſited at Ludlow, the ſeat of his government; there has lately been an engraving of the caſe which encloſed it. By the lady Mary, eldeſt daughter of John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, he had three ſons—Sir Philip, Sir Robert, Sir Thomas, and a ſurviving daughter Mary, who became counteſs of Pembroke, whom her brother Sir Philip has celebrated in his Arcadia, and Johnſon immortalized by the beautiful lines he inſcribed on her tomb.

Sir Philip Sidney, the eldeſt ſon, godſon of Philip II. of Spain, and the delight of England, was born at Penſhurſt, November 24, 1554. Brave, learned, elegant, and juſt, he gained the applauſe of all good men. Elizabeth would read his letters of advice, when ſhe would diſregard that of her ancient counſellors, becauſe ſhe knew all his conduct was directed for her ſolid intereſt. His letters will do honour to his memory, ſo long as virtue and ſenſe are eſtimable, whilſt his Arcadia is neglected by moſt as laboured and unnatural. He was mortally wounded at the battle of Zutphen in Guilderland, September 22, 1586, when ſerving under his maternal uncle, Robert earl of Leiceſter; and he died at Arnheim, October 10 following, at the early age of thirty-four years, in the greateſt reputation of any individual in Europe. His honoured remains were refuſed the Dutch, who aſked as a favour to give them a public funeral; that duty Elizabeth took upon herſelf, and had

had them brought over and interred with the greateſt ſolemnity in St. Paul's church. Such was the ſenſe of his loſs, that for ſome time after it was indecorous to be engaged in any public amuſement. The Chriſtian and the hero never were more cloſely united with the ſtateſman, and his refined and elegant manners gave a finiſh to his character, that nothing could exceed. When we ſee him wounded, panting with thirſt, take the uplifted cup, untaſted from his mouth, and direct it to be given to a poor, unbefriended ſoldier, who lay near him in agonies, becauſe, ſaid he, "Thy neceſſity is yet greater than mine;" we muſt, we cannot help weeping his fate. There are many prints of him; but that of Vertue, giving him ſeated on a bank with Penſhurſt behind him, is moſt admired.

Waller has commemorated the incident of a tree having been planted in the park here at his birth:

"Go, boy, and carve this paſſion on the bark
Of yonder tree, which ſtands the ſacred mark
Of noble Sidney's birth: when ſuch benign,
Such more than mortal-making ſtars did ſhine,
That there it cannot but for ever prove
The monument and pledge of humble love."

Ben Johnſon alſo has celebrated this favoured tree; but the lines alluſive to the circumſtance are moſt ſimply elegant in Mr. E. Coventry's poem, intituled PENSHURST;—they muſt pleaſe every one.

"What genius points to yonder oak?
What rapture does my ſoul provoke?
Here let me hang a garland high,
There let my muſe her accents try;
Be there my earlieſt homage paid,
Be there my lateſt vigils made;
For thou waſt planted in the earth
The day that ſhone on Sidney's birth."

We learn from Collins that the tree was remaining in the park when he wrote: it had the name of Bear's Oak; no reaſon is aſſigned for ſuch an uncouth appellation, nor can it be conceived why it was given, unleſs from the Dudleys creſt, and favourite device of the bear with a ſtaff reguled. Mr. Haſted ſays it is ſtill ſtanding at a ſmall diſtance from a fine piece of water called Lancup-well, and that it is twenty-two feet in circumference.

Sir Philip Sidney married Frances, daughter and ſole heir of Sir Francis Wal-

ſingham, ſecretary of ſtate, by whom he had an only child, Elizabeth, married to Roger earl of Rutland. Sir Philip's widow married again to Robert earl of Eſſex, the inſolent favourite of Elizabeth, who fell a victim to his own raſh violence: the queen highly diſapproved of this alliance as beneath him. The iſſue of this marriage was Robert earl of Eſſex, parliament general againſt Charles I. The lady, left a ſecond time a widow, married a third huſband, the earl of Clanrickard. The elegant lord Lyttelton, in his Dialogues of the Dead, makes this lady ſay how much more happy ſhe was in the laſt, than in either of her two former marriages; the great Sidney and the ambitious Eſſex being too much taken up with glory and faction to attend to the endearments of conjugal felicity: he was not unworthy her choice, for Smollett ſays, he was a very handſome gallant young nobleman, much reſembling the late earl of Eſſex; but it ſeems very abſurd to ſuppoſe Elizabeth, then nearly ſeventy, made advances to him.

Sir Robert Sidney ſucceeded his brother in his eſtates. He was a great ſtateſman. Importuning queen Elizabeth for a peerage, which, as deſcended maternally from the Dudleys, he judged he had almoſt a claim to demand, ſhe ſent him to Fluſhing, and under flattering pretences kept him there many years. James I., as laviſh, as Elizabeth was ſparing of honours, created him lord Sidney of Penſhurſt, viſcount Liſle, and earl of Leiceſter; elected him knight of the garter, a privy counſellor, and lord preſident of Wales. Dying in 1626, he was ſucceeded in his titles and eſtates by

Robert, ſecond earl of Leiceſter, no leſs a politician than his father, having repreſented James I. at the courts of Denmark, France, and ſome of thoſe in Germany, was appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland upon the earl of Strafford's removal; but ſiding with the parliament, he excuſed his going thither: he had the care of the duke of Glouceſter and the princeſs Elizabeth, children of Charles I. At the Reſtoration he paid his duty at Whitehall. Charles II. received him with reſpect; their manners were totally diſſimilar: being excuſed attendance, he returned to Penſhurſt. He died in 1677, blameable in deſerting his royal maſter, becauſe Henrietta-Maria his queen had diſobliged him; yet reſpectable not only for his abilities, but for many private virtues. He was father of his ſucceſſor, Algernon, the pride of the republicans, and whoſe death was certainly illegal (for his hiſtory we muſt refer our reader to Mr. Noble's Lives of the Regicides); Robert, who died at Penſhurſt in 1674, and Henry, created by William III. baron of Milton, viſcount

viſcount Sidney of the iſle of Shepey, and earl of Romney; alſo ſeveral daughters—Dorothy; Lucy, married to Sir Thomas Pelham, Bart.; Ann, to Joſeph Cart, A. M.; and Iſabella, to Philip viſcount Strangford. Dorothy, the eldeſt, was Waller's Sachariſſa, a lady whoſe beauty was beyond expreſſion great; there are two portraits of her at Beaconsfield, the ſeat of the poet, and likewiſe a miniature pendent to a valuable ſtring of pearls. The wonder is not that he ſhould love, but that any one ſhould do otherwiſe: ſhe admired the poet, but, fired with ambition, gave her hand to Henry lord Spencer, afterwards created earl of Sunderland, who was killed on the royal ſide in the civil war, by whom ſhe had Robert earl of Sunderland, the moſt perfidious character that has ſtained our annals, the betrayer of James II. and equally untrue to William III. The beauteous Sachariſſa mourned the death of the huſband of her youth, but afterwards was prevailed upon to give her hand to Robert Smith of Bidborough, Eſq. a match in point of worldly prudence unequal to that of her adoring Waller. The counteſs late in life aſking the poet when he would write ſuch fine poems upon her, received for anſwer, "When you "are young again." An unpubliſhed anecdote of Mr. Waller, received from one of his family, muſt not be omitted. He as a gay courtier was to appear in the royal preſence to meet his all-charming Sachariſſa. Every thing was prepared with the niceſt care; a ruff of the fineſt lace and of the largeſt circumference procured, and a cottager entruſted with it; the man having opened the box that contained it, viewed the ſtrange thing with wonder; the whim took him to put it about the neck of his maſter's faithful dog who accompanied him; with ſome difficulty he accompliſhed it: the creature, ſurpriſed and alarmed at the great wired, ſtiffened, expanded lace, leaped from the man, and run with the utmoſt ſpeed, followed by the aſtoniſhed meſſenger, who with grief ſaw him daſh through the hedges, leaving upon the brambles fragments of the ill-fated ruff deſigned to adorn the neck of the expecting beau; who at length knowing the cataſtrophe, having vented his rage at the cur and the clown, was obliged to go to court and to his Sachariſſa, leſs ſplendidly adorned than he had intended.

Philip, third earl of Leiceſter, the next poſſeſſor of Penſhurſt, condeſcended to ſit in Oliver the Protector's upper houſe (ſee Mr. Noble's Memoirs of the Cromwells). He died in 1702. Three of his ſons were ſucceſſively earls of Leiceſter; Philip, who died in 1705; John, in 1737; and Joceline, the laſt earl of Leiceſter of this family, in 1743. The former and the latter married, but had no child. No two brothers ever

were

were more diſſimilar than the two laſt noblemen; earl John being in the higheſt truſt and confidence with his ſovereigns, George I. and George II. who made him a lord of the bedchamber, warden of the cinque ports, conſtable of Dover-caſtle, knight of the Bath, captain of the yeomen of the guards, lord lieutenant of Kent, privy counſellor, and conſtable of the Tower. He was not leſs beloved in private life, than truſted in a public capacity: but he had an unfortunate attachment, which he wanted ſtrength of mind ſufficient to break through, until the united ſolicitations of his beſt friends, and of the object of his regard, made him at length conſent to marry; that his titles might not be contaminated by coming to ſo weak and ſo imprudent a perſon as his brother Joceline. Beſides, too, even Joceline had not any legitimate child. All preliminaries being ſettled, it was agreed that the frail fair ſhould leave his houſe the next morning early, to prevent the pain of parting, and his lordſhip went out to ſpend the evening; coming home late, and paſſing through a ſuite of apartments he had been unaccuſtomed ever to ſee, as he went to his bedchamber he heard a noiſe like ſome one in violent pain. Led by the ſound, he entered the room in which this gentlewoman was, and found her ſuſpended to the top of the bed, ſtruggling with death: inſtantly taking her down, by proper methods ſhe was recovered. He then excuſed himſelf to the lady he was going to marry, and to her friends, declaring that he never could deſert one, who had owned ſhe could not live without him. He thought her preſervation by him was almoſt miraculous, as ſhe never had ſlept before in the chamber in which he diſcovered her, nor had he ever gone through the ſame range of rooms. He was the more ſtruck with her paſſion for him, as he had been more preſſed to break their connexion by her than any other, pleading to him that his honour and intereſt united to urge him to it: by no arguments could ſhe be prevailed upon to accept but a moderate annuity juſt ſufficient for a maintenance. It would have been criminal to have parted from ſuch a woman; it would have been virtuous and glorious, deſpiſing the opinion of the gay and inconſiderate, to have given her a legal claim to his love.

The title at length veſted in Joceline his brother, who diſgraced himſelf and it, as had been foreſeen. His counteſs, Elizabeth, daughter of a gentleman of the name of Thomas in Glamorganſhire, was no leſs profligate. They ſeparated, each purſuing their guilty pleaſures. After their parting ſhe had ſeveral children. He left an illegitimate daughter, to whom he bequeathed the whole of his eſtates, which diſpoſition was diſputed by his nieces, daughters and coheirs of the Hon. colonel Thomas Sidney—

ney—Mary, married to Sir Brownlow Sherard, of Lowthorpe, in Leiceſterſhire, Bart.; and Elizabeth, to William Perry, of Turville-park, in Buckinghamſhire, Eſq. At length a compromiſe, ſanctioned by an act of parliament, took place, which eſtabliſhed them as tenants in common of the manors of Penſhurſt, Cepham, Howſbrooke, Hepſbrooke or Ford-place, Weſt Lyghe, Eaſt and Weſt Eweherſt, Rendſley, Penſhurſt-place, and the part conſiſting of 419 acres of land within the park pales, Well-place alſo within the park; Aſhore, part of it, with other parcels belonging to it, and the other eſtates compriſed in the act, ſome of which they divided into diſtinct moieties: Sir B. Sherard and his lady taking the manſion of Ford-place farm, Ensfield, Moody's farm, Upper Latterhams or Warrens, Lyghe-park, South-park Priory and Crouch-lands, Court-lands, and other open and woodlands, with the advowſons of the churches of Lyghe and Cowden.—Mr. and Mrs. Perry received the advowſon of Penſhurſt, parſonage farm at Lyghe, meſſuages and premiſes called Naſhes, Doubletons, Redleafe, and other lands and woods appurtenant to them.

Lady Mary, the elder coheireſs, dying without iſſue, deviſed her intereſt in the eſtates to the baronet Younge family, ſeated at Eſcot, in Devonſhire, who diſpoſed of the undivided moiety to Mrs. Perry, the other coheireſs; and they alſo conveyed the divided moiety to Richard Alnutt, Eſq. a merchant of London, who erected a ſeat here, called, from the name that part of the eſtate had borne, South-park; who left it with its manerial rights, and the other part of the eſtates he had purchaſed, to truſtees for the benefit of his grandſon, Richard Alnutt, Eſq. the preſent proprietor and reſident.

Mr. Perry, who by ſign manual in 1752 took the ſurname of Sidney, repaired and beautified Penſhurſt-place, and added many valuable pictures to the collection there, purchaſed by him in Italy. Dying in 1757, he left his widow in poſſeſſion of what had been apportioned to her; and ſhe, in 1770, added to theſe eſtates purchaſed of lady Younge and Sir George Younge, K. B. her ſon: when, to the ſurpriſe of all, the whole was claimed by John Sidney, Eſq. who alſo challenged the title of earl of Leiceſter, founding his pretenſions upon this, that as his mother, the wife of Joceline the laſt nobleman, had never been divorced, he, as eldeſt ſon-in-law, was entitled to be repreſentative of that nobleman, as much as if he had been owned by him as his ſon and heir-apparent. The cauſe, one of the moſt ſingular upon record, was tried in 1782 in the court of common pleas, being on a writ of right,

" The

" The proceedings of which," ſays my author, " are all ancient and ſingular, by " a grand aſſize, conſiſting of four knights of this county, with twelve gentlemen " their companions, the tenor of whoſe oath is to ſay, whether the tenant who " poſſeſſes the lands has more right to hold the lands than the demandant has to " demand them. But Mrs. Perry, in ſupport of her right, exhibiting the will of " Jocceline earl of Leiceſter, to whom the demandant claimed to be ſon and heir, " by which the eſtates in queſtion were deviſed away from him, and conſequently " he could not claim them by heirſhip to the earl; and as the iſſue to be tried was " ſolely, whether the demandant had a better title than the tenant?—the old maxim " of the law, *melior eſt conditio poſſidentis*, was cited, to prove that Mrs. Perry's " title being in poſſeſſion, was better than that of Mr. Sidney the demandant, who " had no poſſeſſion, and had loſt all right by the above will, which gave them " away to another, let the claim of the deviſer againſt Mrs. Perry be what it would; " and the court was of this opinion, and the grand aſſize unanimouſly gave their " verdict in her favour."—Mr. Sidney was equally unſucceſsful in his claim to the earldom of Leiceſter.

Mrs. Perry, or, more properly ſpeaking, Sidney, died in 1783, having loſt her only ſon Algernon Perry Sidney, who died unmarried in 1768, and leaving only two daughters and coheirs; Elizabeth, married to Biſhe Shelley, Eſq. and Frances, to Mr. Poictiers: though the latter alſo had children, ſhe deviſed all theſe eſtates to truſtees for the benefit of her grandſon, John Shelley, Eſq. conditionally, that he procured the ſurname of Sidney; and he now reſides here.

The extraordinary hiſtory of the Sidney family, the peculiar circumſtances of the deſcent of their property here, will plead excuſe for ſo long a relation.—Something muſt now be ſaid of the ancient ſeat of Penſhurſt. This old manſion is a hollow ſquare, irregularly built; the tower in the front was erected by the firſt Sir Henry Sidney, as a monument of gratitude to the generous monarch who had granted it to his father. The houſe ſtands in the ſouth-weſt corner of the park, which, though diminiſhed, contains more than 400 acres, finely wooded with oak, beech, and cheſnut trees, beautifully diverſified, and through it flows the Medway. The ſtate rooms are ſuperbly furniſhed; but its collection of pictures, eſpecially the portraits of the Sidneys and Dudleys, with the monarchs who favoured them, are far the moſt valuable: ſome of theſe are by Holbein, as are others. We

cannot quit this charming ſpot, conſecrated by having been the reſidence of ſuch illuſtrious characters in every thing great, without a ſigh, remembering that

> " Here mighty Dudley once would rove,
> To plan his triumphs in the grove ;
> There looſer Waller, ever gay,
> With Sachariſſa in dalliance lay ;
> And Philip, ſidelong yonder ſpring,
> His laviſh carols wont to ſing."

There is an eſtate here called Salmans, once the ſeat of a family ſo denominated, who remained poſſeſſed of it until the reign of Henry VI.: it afterwards was owned by the Rowes. Derking-hall or Darkenols, formerly belonging to the Willoughbys, Seyliards, Scullards, is now veſted in the Streatfeilds.

The manor of Hepſbrooke, whoſe manſion has the name of Ford-place, was the ancient reſidence of the Sidneys, before they procured the grant of Penſhurſt-place; it followed the courſe of deſcent we have mentioned. Since the time of Sir William Sidney it came in the diviſion of eſtates to the two coheireſſes of the Hon. colonel Sidney, and veſted wholly in Mrs. Perry, by purchaſing the other moiety of the Younge family, and was deviſed by her to John Shelley Sidney, Eſq. with the exception of the farm, or demeſne lands called Ford-place farm, diſpoſed by lady and Sir George Younge to the Alnutts, who ſtill enjoy it.

Chafford-place, ſo many centuries the reſidence of the River family, ſituated at the ſouthern extremity of the pariſh, was taken down by its purchaſer, Mr. William Saxby, who built upon its ſcite a farm-houſe. It is now poſſeſſed by James Harbroc, Eſq. remarried to the widow of Robert Burgeſs, Eſq. who had purchaſed it of Mr. Saxby.

Redleaf-houſe ſtands in the north-weſt part of Penſhurſt, once the Spencers', the laſt of whom deviſed it to Thomas Harvey, of Tunbridge, who left it by his will to the Rev. Thomas Harvey, the reſident, his ſon.

This pariſh is in the deanery of Shoreham, and is a peculiar of his grace of Canterbury: the church, dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt, is large and venerable, and has three chancels, with a ſpire. It is rich in ancient and ſplendid monuments. The family of Sidney are patrons. The Rev. Matthew Nicholas, S. T. P. is the preſent rector. This preferment is valued in the king's books at 30*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.*

LYGHE.

TO the eaſt of Penſhurſt is Lyghe, written alſo Leigh, and Weſt Leigh, formerly La Lye, and more anciently Leaga, the ſignification of which is feeding or paſture: our Anglo-Saxons, like all the other nations of antiquity, giving names appropriate to places. It is, however, not ſo moiſt a ſoil as the pariſh we have juſt left; its extent is from north to ſouth about three miles and a half, and two and a half broad. It has a fair for pedlary wares, held on the 25th of July; yet it is an inconſiderable place, where we ſhall not long detain our readers; being, as it were, an appendant to Penſhurſt.

The manor of Lyghe, or Weſt Leigh, has for ages followed the ſame deſcent as Penſhurſt, and is now part of the eſtate of John Shelley Sidney, Eſq.

Ramhurſt was anciently accounted a manor, held of the honour of Glouceſter; it was in the reign of Edward I. the property of the family of Rouland, whence it went to the Culpepers, where it remained for many generations. They diſpoſed of it to Worral, who in the reign of Henry VIII. conveyed it to Lewknor; and in queen Elizabeth's time it became the Saxby's, who ſold it to Richard Children, Eſq.: he made it his reſidence, and died here in 1753, upon whoſe death it deſcended to his eldeſt ſon, John Children, of Tunbridge, Eſq. whoſe ſon, George Children, of that place, Eſq. is the preſent proprietor.

There is a large tract of land called Hollenden, which, though ſeparated from this pariſh by that of Tunbridge intervening, is generally accounted as belonging to Lyghe, or at leaſt the greater part of it. It was a manor of itſelf whilſt held by the Freminghams and Cheneys; but prior to the reign of Henry VIII. it loſt all traces of ſuch a diſtinction, from its having been broken into a number of ſmall freeholds.

There is, however, one part of Hollenden which has been kept very entire; and in the reign of the laſt-named monarch was conveyed to William Waller, Eſq. whoſe ſon Richard Waller, Eſq., left it to his widow, and ſhe took it to her ſecond huſband, Stephen Towſe, gentleman. He died in 1611, and ſome time after the Crittendens poſſeſſed it, who, in the time of Charles II., conveyed it to the Harriſons, and they about the year 1717 to the Burges's: Richard Burges claimed the manorial rights of it as the manor of Lyghe-Hallendon. This gentleman rebuilt the ſeat, and dying in 1794, left the whole eſtate to Sarah his wife, who took it to her huſband, James Harbroc, Eſq. the preſent inhabitant.

The church of Lyghe, though ſmall and mean, is rich in ancient memorials of the dead, and there is ſome painted glaſs in the windows. It was given to the convent of Tunbridge. It is a vicarage, but the clergyman claims tithe of every thing but wheat: the preſent incumbent is the Rev. Dickſon Lillington, D. D. This preferment is in the deanery of Malling, and charged in the king's books 9*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* There was anciently a free chapel in this pariſh, but it was ſuppreſſed by the act paſſed in the firſt year of Edward the Sixth's reign, and his majeſty ſeized the revenues, valued at 6*l.* 5*s.* per annum.

TUNBRIDGE.

THE town of Tunbridge ſtands in a diſtrict of its own called a Lowy, vulgarly Lewy; in Latin *leuca*. It is of French origin, meaning an exempt juriſdiction round an abbey, caſtle, or chief manſion. This lowy was very large, extending over the pariſhes of Hadlow and Capel; but the latter being out of the diſtrict preſcribed, will not be noticed.

The pariſh is very extenſive, not leſs than ſix miles each way, extremely well wooded; near the river it has fine paſturage, and the beſt lands higher up are planted with hops. Tunbridge ſtands in a central ſituation, and is about thirty miles from London. The roads here branch off to the Wells, to Cowden, and to Rye in Suſſex; and one from the middle of the town eaſtward, through Hadlow to Mereworth, and thence to Maidſtone.

The Medway runs through the town near the ſouth end, ſeparated in five ſtreams, each of which has a bridge, from which circumſtance it takes its name, the town of bridges: the ſouthern was once the chief; as is now the northern one, which was deepened to form the inner moat of the caſtle. It is navigable, and in 1775 there was a new bridge erected by the county at the expenſe of 1100*l.*, from a deſign of Mr. Milne, but it does not exhibit any beauty. Trade has much increaſed ſince 1740, when the Medway was rendered navigable from Maidſtone to this place. There is a wharf near the bridge for the reception of the timber brought from the Weald. It is greatly to be wiſhed that the river were alſo made capable of having larger veſſels proceed to the main channel that comes from Penſhurſt, and which is not more than one mile.

The town, conſiſting of one long ſpacious ſtreet, inhabited in part by gentlemen, is remarkably clean, both from its deſcent, and from having 32*l.* the rent of what is called the town land, given at ſome diſtant period, applied to that purpoſe. The end of it leading to London has a fine ſtone cauſeway, made at the expenſe of John Willford, citizen of London, about the middle of Henry the Eighth's reign.

Though Tunbridge was originally little more than the ſuburbs of the caſtle, yet it became of ſuch conſequence, that in the reign of Edward I. it had its members of parliament; but is now become of far leſs importance. There are three fairs in the year, on Aſh Wedneſday, July 5, and October 29, for cattle and toys; beſides which they have a very conſiderable monthly Tueſday's market for the former, and a weekly one, on Friday, for meat and poultry. Two town wardens are choſen at the court leet held every three years. Owing to the ſtrength and ſituation of the caſtle, this place has given titles to ſome of our moſt illuſtrious families. The Staffords, dukes of Buckingham, were barons of Tunbridge; the Burghs, earls and marquiſes of Clanricarde, in Ireland, were viſcounts of it; and the Naſſaus, earls of Rochford, ſtill remain viſcounts of Tunbridge.

It is generally allowed that this place was, in the time of the Anglo-Saxons, part of the demeſne of the metropolitan ſee of Canterbury; but in the violent convulſion that ſhook the whole kingdom at its conqueſt by William the Norman, Odo biſhop of Bayeux, the maternal brother of that monarch, with a rapacity that peculiarly marked his character, ſeized this, with much other territorial property of that church, in the archiepiſcopate of the meek, intimidated Stigand, and ſtill more after his death, whilſt the ſee was vacant. The matter entirely changed when Lanfranc ſucceeded the deceaſed archbiſhop; he had ſtrength of mind ſufficient to contend with his violent adverſary, and deputed an officer with his complaints, ordering him to lay the matter before William, who was then in Normandy. The king, knowing the character of his brother, and fearful of injuring the firſt prelate in his new dominions, determined to have the cauſe fully inveſtigated, and that too in the ſolemneſt manner.

The moſt conſiderable perſons for abilities and wealth were fixed upon, ſelected from thoſe counties in which the archbiſhop had eſtates: they chiefly lay in Kent; the remainder were in Surrey, London, Middleſex, Eſſex, Suffolk, Oxfordſhire, and Buckinghamſhire: the commiſſions were ſuch as a cauſe between the

the two greateſt ſubjects of England demanded. They met near Aylesford; Lanfranc, learned and eloquent, with juſtice on his ſide, pleaded his cauſe in perſon, and obtained a deciſion in his favour. The intruder was obliged to reſtore to the deſpoliated ſee twenty-three manors, and amongſt them this of Tunbridge.

It happened, however, that Odo had before this given a grant of Tunbridge to Richard Fitz-Gilbert, or Giſlibert, a young nobleman, earl of Ewe, deſcended from an illegitimate branch of the dukes of Normandy, and who had eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the battle of Haſtings, which transferred the Engliſh crown from Harold to William. He, having a paſſion for the place, interceded with both the king and the archbiſhop to retain it, and through the mediation of the former with the latter, an agreement was concluded, by the archbiſhop accepting the town of Brionne in Normandy, with its juriſdiction, as an equivalent; but that neither might be diſſatisfied with the terms, it was ſettled, according to the ſimplicity of the eleventh century, that the diſtrict of Tunbridge ſhould be encircled by a ſtring, and that the ſame quantity of land ſhould in that manner be incloſed at Brionne.

Thus eſtabliſhed, he built a caſtle, and made it a place of great ſtrength; and ſo highly pleaſed was he with this reſidence, that he took for his ſurname de Tonebrige. He became one of William's moſt puiſſant barons; for beſides his great patrimonial inheritance in Normandy, he received 176 lordſhips in England, excluſive of thirteen burgeſſes in the town of Ipſwich, of which Clare was one. Jointly with William Warren he executed the high office of juſticiary of England, whilſt William was in Normandy, and aſſiſted him in ſuppreſſing a conſpiracy raiſed by the earls of Hereford and Norfolk; but declaring for Robert duke of Normandy, in oppoſition to his younger brother William, who had ſeized the crown after their father's death, he was beſieged in this caſtle, obliged to make his ſubmiſſion, and ſwear allegiance to Rufus, to whom he afterwards proved faithful, and was taken fighting in his quarrel in Normandy by Robert, and detained until that eccentric prince reſigned to William his dukedom, as he had before his kingdom. He was ſlain at Abergavenny in the commencement of Stephen's reign, fighting for that monarch againſt the Welſh. Such was the founder of Tunbridge-caſtle, and of a moſt illuſtrious family in England.

Gilbert, dropping the ſurname de Tonebrige, took that of Clare, of which he was created earl, the title paſſing through many of his deſcendants; the latter of whom

whom had alſo the earldoms of Glouceſter and Hertford, ended in the male line at the beginning of the fourteenth century. The hiſtory of theſe great peers would take up far too much of our time to detail.

It may, however, be proper to give ſuch incidents of their lives as particularly relate to the caſtle of Tunbridge.—A conſtant conteſt ſubſiſted between theſe potent chieftains and the ſee of Canterbury, from the time of that haughty prelate Becket, until the reign of Henry III. when an accord was made, by which it was agreed that the earls of Clare and Glouceſter ſhould hold Tunbridge and its lowy by the grand ſergeantcy of being chief butlers and high ſtewards at the inſtalment of the metropolitans, and grant them wardſhip of their children. Whenever one of them attended upon the ſolemnization of inthronization, he was to receive, for the ſervice of ſteward, ſeven robes of ſcarlet, thirty gallons of wine, fifty pounds of wax for the uſe of his own lights on the feaſt, the livery of hay and corn for eighty horſes for two nights, and the diſhes and ſalts which ſhould be placed before the prelate at the firſt courſe of the feaſt; and when the nobleman ſhould take his leave, entertainment for three days, at the expenſe of the archbiſhop and his ſucceſſors, at their neareſt manors by the four quarters of Kent, whereſoever the peer ſhould make his election, ſo that he did not go thither with more than fifty horſe: and when the caſtle went into the hands of the Stafford family, we find that theſe ſervices were retained; but inſtead of proviſions, it was in the fourteenth century both to the de Clares and the Staffords compounded for a ſum of money, generally two hundred marks, and the ſilver gilt cup with which the earl ſhould ſerve before the archbiſhop. So late as the reign of Henry VIII. we find Edward duke of Buckingham executing in perſon the office of ſteward at the inthronization of archbiſhop Warham, and the butlerſhip by his deputy Sir Thomas Bourchier. Theſe are traits of character in our hiſtory that may be deemed worthy preſervation, as they mark the cuſtoms of former periods.

Tunbridge-caſtle was alternately the ſcene of war and the abode of pleaſure, but ever of conſequence. Gilbert, ſurnamed Rufus, earl of Clare, Glouceſter, and Hertford, joining the rebellious barons againſt their ſovereign Henry III., was beſieged by prince Edward, the king's ſon, during which the garriſon ſet fire to and burnt the town, to prevent its being uſeful to the prince; who, however, took the caſtle and the counteſs of Glouceſter, but gave her liberty: he nevertheleſs put a garriſon in the caſtle. Some time afterwards Gilbert, convinced of the badneſs

of

of the cauſe in which he was engaged, joined the royal ſtandard, and in reward for his returning loyalty received again the poſſeſſion of this caſtle.

Here it was that he entertained Edward, then become his ſovereign, upon his return from Paleſtine. The reception was ſplendid; and though the king was deſirous of reaching his capital, yet he remained here many days; and ſo acceptable did he become to the king, that having divorced his wife for her ill conduct, Edward gave him his own daughter, Joan of Acres; who, as part of her jointure, had this caſtle ſettled upon her, which ſhe made the place of her reſidence in her widowhood; and in her ſecond marriage with Ralph de Monthermer, a private gentleman in her ſervice, whoſe preſumption in marrying a princeſs at firſt drew upon him the vengeance of offended majeſty; but by the interceſſion of the biſhop of Durham, Edward received him into favour, and his merit was ſuch, that he obtained his confidence and affection; and from this ſecond alliance have deſcended many noble houſes. We muſt here obſerve, that prince Edward, afterward Edward II. alſo reſided at Tunbridge in the twenty-ſecond year of his father's reign, when he was left ſupreme governor of the kingdom, whilſt the elder Edward was in Flanders.

Upon the death of Gilbert de Clare, the laſt earl of Glouceſter of this family, in the partition of his vaſt eſtates to his three ſiſters and coheirs, Tunbridge caſtle and manor came to Hugh de Audley, in right of his wife Margaret, the ſecond of them; till joining with ſome diſcontented barons, this caſtle was ſeized by Edward II. who made Bartholomew de Badleſmere governor; but he alſo traitorouſly joining the malecontents, gave the cuſtody of it to Henry de Cobham, whoſe deputy, Crevequer, intending to follow the ſtandard of revolt and deliver up his charge to the rebels, was ordered to be hanged, and this caſtle, the ſcene of his treaſon, to be razed to the ground: it fortunately eſcaped, having been one of the four which Edward ſoon after fixed upon as ſafe receptacles to depoſit the records and charters of the kingdom in; and in the following reign Hugh de Audley was reſtored to favour, had the earldom of Glouceſter in right of his marriage given him, and was permitted to re-enjoy this caſtle.

Margaret, his only daughter, took the caſtle and manor of Tunbridge to Ralph lord Stafford, created earl of Stafford, and elected knight of the garter, who died here. His deſcendants roſe to a rank that eclipſed every other ſubject, having the earldoms of Buckingham, Hereford, Stafford, Northampton, and Perch, with many

many baronies veſted in them, and at length raiſed to ducal honours, and made hereditary conſtables of England. Tunbridge-caſtle was neither neglected nor deſerted by this puiſſant family; but little of conſequence relating to it is known whilſt in their poſſeſſion. The archbiſhops ſtill retaining their ſeigniory, claimed the ward of the ſons of theſe noblemen during their minority, with cuſtody of the caſtle; and though they had been left by one of them to Thomas of Woodſtock, duke of Glouceſter, a ſon of England; yet theſe were allowed by parliament to be of right veſted in the archbiſhops of Canterbury.

When Richard III. had cut off the firſt duke of Buckingham, he ſent Sir Marmaduke Conſtable to reſide here, and by writ under his ſign manual commanded the inhabitants of the honour and lowy of Tunbridge to attend upon him, forbidding them to take clothing, or be retained by any manner of perſon or perſons whomſoever; and from his ledger-book we find he appointed his truſty friend, Robert Brakenbury, Eſq. conſtable of Tunbridge-caſtle, with a fee or ſalary of ten marks. Brakenbury was afterwards knighted by him, and was the TRUSTY FRIEND that murdered the royal youths, Edward V. and his brother the duke of York: perhaps this was part of his fee for the horrid deed.

This caſtle was forfeited to the crown at the ruin of the laſt Stafford, duke of Buckingham, when this family, every way ſo great, fell, to riſe no more; and in a courſe of deſcents, the laſt male of them was found with his ſiſter in the loweſt ſtate of abject wretchedneſs. Charles I. who ought to have compaſſionated the ſtrange reverſe of fortune of the Staffords, illegally obliged him to reſign his title, which he granted away to a branch of the Howard family.

King Edward VI. in his fourth year gave a grant of the lordſhip, manor, and caſtle of Tunbridge, and his two parks of Poſterne and Cage, lying near the town, with his foreſts and chaſes of North Frith and South Frith, to John Dudley, earl of Warwick, afterwards duke of Northumberland; but reconveying them to the crown, queen Mary gave the whole of them to hold *in capite* by knight's ſervice, to Pole cardinal archbiſhop of Canterbury, for life, with the power to demiſe them to whomſoever he pleaſed, during a year complete after his death; but he making no ſuch proviſion, and dying the ſame day as his ſovereign, they became veſted again in the crown.

Queen Elizabeth granted theſe, with other premiſes, to her couſin Henry Carey, lord Hunſdon, and his heirs male, remainder to the crown; but ſhe gave him a farther

farther grant in fee under the ſame tenure that they had before been held; ſo that from his family they came by an heireſs to the Berkleys, by them conveyed to Sir John Kennedie, he to Goſſon and Johnſon, and they united in alienating them to Sir Peter Vanlore, a naturalized merchant, whoſe ſon was created a baronet: this family ending in females, after very complex claims, and many law-ſuits, the manor, caſtle, and part of its demeſnes, finally ſettled in Jacoba, married to Henry Zinzan, alias Alexander, Eſq. the deſcendants of whom, in 1729, diſpoſed of it to John Hooker, Eſq., whoſe ſon, the elegant Thomas Hooker, Eſq., in 1793 built a handſome ſtone ſeat cloſe to the caſtle, and laid out the ground with correct taſte; but before it had received the laſt finiſh, he diſpoſed of it to William Woodgate, of Somerhill, in this pariſh, Eſq., married to his ſiſter Frances; and now that gentleman enjoys it.

It muſt be remarked that the caſtle preſents a pictureſque object, and is a monument of its former ſplendid conſequence, once the reſidence of the firſt peers, who received there the viſits of majeſty, though now the abode of the ſcreech-owl and the bat: indeed its glory ſet with that of the ennobled unfortunate Staffords.

It ſtill retains its court leet and baron. Dues for caſtle guard are diſcontinued; as are ſome for encroachment on the lord's waſte. Some excuſe ought perhaps to be made for having ſo long detained the reader.

There is a large diſtrict containing all the north-weſt part of the lowy of Tunbridge, called Hildenburgh, containing the manors of Hilden, Dachurſt, Martin-Abbey, Lamport, Nizell, Hadlow, the lands denominated Hollenden, the ſmall manor of Leigh, or Hildenborough in Leigh, and that of Penſhurſt-Halymote, all under the juriſdiction of the honour of Otford; the high ſteward of which holds his yearly court leet in this borough to elect a conſtable, borſholder, &c. the ſingularity of which is, that it ſhould be under the juriſdiction of two manors, the one civil, the other military.

The manors of Dachurſt, Martin-Abbey, Lamport, and Nizell, after the attainture of the Staffords, veſting in the crown, remained there until the great rebellion, when they were ſold to colonel Robert Gibbon, but reclaimed by Charles II., who granted the fee-farm rents to the Daſhwood family, by which they are ſtill retained. The demeſnes of Dachurſt, Henry VIII. granted to the Skeffingtons, who ſold them in ſmall parcels.

Hilden manor, a mile from Tunbridge, was anciently the Vanes', and paſſing

through many families, came to the family of Dyke, one of whom took down the manor-houſe: they ſold it the Harveys, who now poſſeſs it, and hold a court baron.

The eſtate of Philipots is reputed a manor. It was the ſeat of the Philipots, and ſince of the Children family. It now belongs to Mr. Richard Polhill or Polley, of Chatham, one of whoſe anceſtors is ſaid to have been bow-bender to queen Elizabeth: a bow, ſuppoſed to have been her majeſty's, not many years ago hung up in the houſe; it was curiouſly enamelled and ſtudded.

Baden manor, lying a little ſpace from Tunbridge to the ſouth-weſt, was once of ſuch importance, as to give name to a "borough" of conſiderable extent; the Badens long enjoyed it; afterwards it was divided: that part which was once the benevolent Sir Andrew Judde's, is now the property of Thomas Streatfeild, of Sevenoke, Eſq. The other part, containing the manor, is enjoyed by Charles Polhill, of Chepſted, in Chevening, Eſq.; as is the ſmall adjoining manor of Hadlow. Mr. Polhill, about ten years ago, called a court baron, but as no one attended, it is probable none will in future be held.

The borough of South, or Southborough, included within it the ſouthern part of the lowy of Tunbridge. Mention will firſt be made of the manor of the ſame name, more memorable for its poſſeſſors than its own conſequence. From the Clares it went to the Audleys and Staffords, and having been loſt by the attainture of the laſt of them, Henry VIII. granted it to the wife and learned Sir Thomas More, lord chancellor; and at his attainture, to the elegant and equally learned George Boleyn, viſcount Rochford, brother to queen Ann Boleyn, who, like the two laſt poſſeſſors, ſtained the ſcaffold with his blood; as did its next owner, Dudley duke of Northumberland. How bleſſed are we in having exchanged ſuch ferocious, ſanguinary times for the preſent! and how careful ſhould we be, in never expreſſing diſſatisfaction with the bleſſings we enjoy, bleſſings unknown to our anceſtors! Queen Elizabeth gave it to Sir Richard Sackville, conveyed by him to Thomas Smith, Eſq. called Cuſtomer Smith, whoſe deſcendants, by his ſecond ſon, poſſeſſed it until 1790, when it came to its preſent owner, the earl of Darnley, who holds here a court baron; and a fair is alſo kept on the 24th of March.

Hayſden, or Eaſt Hayſden, is a ſmall manor at the ſouth-weſt extremity of the lowy, belonging to Henry Goodwyn, of Enfield, Eſq. who holds a court baron for it.

There was a large diſtrict, as before mentioned, called North Frith, and another,

ther, ſtill larger, denominated South Frith, each encloſed by pales. This followed the deſcent of the caſtle, until the death of Hugh de Audley, earl of Glouceſter, when the South Frith went to his youngeſt daughter Elizabeth, who took it in marriage to the Burghs, and they to Lionel duke of Clarence, third ſon of Edward III.; and Philippa, his ſole child, to that branch of the royal family called the houſe of York, wherein it continued, until the death of Cicely dutcheſs of York. It merged in the crown in the perſon of Henry VIII., her grandſon, who retained it in his own hands. Edward VI. granted it to the duke of Northumberland, who reconveyed it to the crown. By queen Mary it was granted to cardinal Pole; at his death queen Elizabeth gave it to her favourite, Robert earl of Leiceſter, for a term of years; and at its expiration ſhe gave the fee to Frances, the widow of her once no leſs favoured Robert earl of Eſſex, who took it to her laſt huſband, the earl of Clanricarde. The parliament ſequeſtered it for the loyalty of Ulick his ſon, created marquis of Clanricarde, to reward their general, the vain-glorious Robert earl of Eſſex. At his death it was given to that miſcreant Bradſhaw, who had paſſed ſentence againſt his ſovereign. It is ſaid to have come, after his deceaſe, to his natural ſon; and ſome old people remember an aged man, ſuppoſed to have been this perſon, and reported to have been the poſſeſſor of Somerhill. The Reſtoration gave that place, with South Frith, to its legal owner, Margaret, daughter of the marquis of Clanricarde, who took it to her three huſbands, Charles M'Carty, viſcount Muſkerry, who left no iſſue; John viſcount Purbeck; and Mr. generally called Beau, Fielding: ſhe, after a life of the moſt wanton extravagance, died in poverty and contempt. Theſe eſtates were ſold by her and John viſcount Purbeck, her ſon, who, as well as his ſon, claimed the earldom of Buckingham. The family of Hill purchaſed about 1200 acres of open and wood land, now belonging to the Rev. John Templer.

South Frith with Somerhill was ſold to a perſon of the name of Dekins, which coming to the family of Woodgate, the manſion is made their ſeat, and the whole are now enjoyed by William Woodgate, Eſq. Many ſmall parcels of land went into the hands of various individuals; it is neither neceſſary, nor, perhaps, practicable to ſpecify them. There is a court baron held for this manor: ſeveral of the tenants hold by copy of court roll, a circumſtance very unuſual in this part of Kent.

Little, or New Bounds, is a ſeat, built by lord chief baron Bury, now the pro-

perty of lord Darnley. Calverley, another ſeat, is the reſidence of its owner, Thomas Pannwell, Eſq.

Here was a priory founded in the reign of Henry II., by Richard de Clare, the firſt earl of Hertford, lord of Tunbridge-caſtle, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, for the order of Premonſtratenſian monks, called white canons, which was burnt down in 1351, with all its coſtly furniture, but rebuilt. It was ſuppreſſed, to found and endow the colleges intended to be erected at Ipſwich and Oxford, by cardinal Wolſey, at which time it was valued at 169*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*; but upon that great eccleſiaſtic's misfortunes, Henry VIII. ſeized it. After going through many poſſeſſors, it is at preſent the property of the Rev. John-Weller Poley. Some parts of it yet remain; the chapel is the moſt entire, and is now uſed as a barn, and a ſtowage for hops, of which Buck has given us an engraving. Near was a ſpring, alſo dedicated to St. Margaret, once walled in, but which has given place to the purer water of the Wells. In this monaſtery were buried ſeveral of the Staffords.

The free grammar-ſchool ſtanding at the north end of the town, was founded and endowed by Sir Andrew Judde, a native of this place, who became citizen, ſkinner, and lord mayor of London. It was erected in the reign of Edward VI., and he died in 1558. He placed it under the guardianſhip and care of the ſkinners' company, which has behaved with a liberality that does them the greateſt honour. The old part of the building is more than 100 feet long: it is of ſtone, neat and uniform. In 1676 an addition was made to the maſter's apartments, with an hall or refectory, and a ſmall neat library built by the company. There are alſo detached offices, a garden, and a play-ground belonging to it. The college of All Souls is viſitors. It has had great benefactors; amongſt theſe, Sir Thomas Smith, ſon-in-law to the founder, ſtands firſt; Mr. Fiſher, Sir Andrew's executor, was another; Mr. Lewis, Sir James Lancaſter, Mr. Worrall, Mr. Robert Holmedon, the liberally benevolent Sir Thomas White, lady Margaret Boſwell, Mr. John Strong, and the Rev. James Cawthorn, one of its maſters.—There are many exhibitions belonging to it. The ſkinners' company viſit in much ſtate every year. There are few inſtitutions which have been better kept up. Its maſters have been a ſucceſſion of learned men. The Rev. Viceſimus Knox, D. D. ſon of a father of both his names, ſucceeded him upon his reſignation as head of this ſeminary: his elegant publications ſpeak his great merit as an able writer.

A very ample relation of this place has now been given; what relates to the church, with

with which the account of Tunbridge, and its juſtly-celebrated Wells, will be cloſed, excepted. The Wells are about thirty-ſix miles from London, ſituate on the ſouth ſide of Kent, but in ſeveral pariſhes; Tunbridge, Frant, and Speldhurſt, containing four ſmall villages, Mount Ephraim, Mount Pleaſant, Mount Sion, and the Wells: theſe, if cloſely united, would form a town of no inconſiderable ſize. They are almoſt on the borders of Suſſex, and are bounded by Tunbridge on the north, Lamberhurſt on the eaſt, a large, and in a great meaſure uncultivated, foreſt, belonging to lord Abergavenny on the ſouth, and Eaſt Grinſted on the weſt. They are of no antiquity; their riſe was ſingular. The gay, diſſipated, young Dudley lord North had exhauſted his conſtitution by his gallantries in the court of Henry prince of Wales; and was adviſed by his phyſicians to retire to the country as the laſt trial to regain his loſt ſtrength. In the year 1606 he went to Eridge-houſe, a hunting ſeat of lord Abergavenny, whoſe park was "an aſſemblage," ſays Mr. Aaron Hill, "of all nature's beauties—hills, vales, brooks, lawns, groves, thickets, rocks, "waterfalls, all noble and regularly amiable." This ſituation, however charming, ill ſuited a young nobleman in his twenty-fourth year, who had been engaged in all the pleaſures attendant upon a court; he therefore determined to leave his retreat and return to town; the ſolicitations of his friends prevailed upon him to promiſe to remain another ſix weeks. Tired with ſolitude, he broke through reſtraint, and ſet out for London. His way lay through the wood in which theſe ſprings were; it was in the morning, and he had leiſure to contemplate the water, with its ſurface ſhining with mineralic ſcum. One of thoſe perſons who inſtantly diſcovered what others, leſs obſervant, neglect, he ſent to a neighbouring cottage for a veſſel; drank of the ſtream, and was convinced it was chalybeate. Pleaſed with the idea, he determined to have it examined by the phyſicians; for which purpoſe he took ſome with him to town. The faculty coincided in opinion: his lordſhip, therefore, returned in the ſummer, that he might add the power of the waters to the purity of the air, and they unitedly reſtored him to the full enjoyment of his health, and he lived upon the remains of a noble fortune to an happy old age, dying January 16, 1666, aged eighty-five years.

So wonderful a reſtoration made a great impreſſion upon the public mind. Lord Abergavenny, procuring the conſent of Mr. Weller, of Tunbridge, the lord of the manor, came down perſonally to inſpect the place, and to ſee it cleared of all its incum-

incumbering bruſhwood. He then had wells ſunk, paved with ſtone, and encloſed with rails in a triangular form. Hither came the afflicted, and returned healthy; but as no accommodations were nearer than the town of Tunbridge, the number was few.

The beautiful Henrietta-Maria, queen to Charles I., being much indiſpoſed after the birth of the prince, afterwards Charles II., ſtayed here ſix weeks; but as no houſe was near, ſuitable for ſo great a perſonage, ſhe and her ſuite remained under tents pitched upon Biſhop's-down. The ſplendid court formed a fine contraſt to the country, every where rude, and in the hands of nature. In honour of her majeſty the wells changed their name from Frant to that of Queen Mary's Wells; both have given place to their preſent one, Tunbridge-wells, though the ſprings evidently riſe in the pariſh of Speldhurſt.

Pleaſure uniting with health, firſt neat cottages, afterwards handſome lodging-houſes, were erected; and that trade might be an attendant, retailers took their ſtands, with various wares, under a row of planted trees in the road which the company were accuſtomed to take when they went to drink of the limpid ſtream. Southborough and Ruſthall, the one two, the other one mile from the wells, ſoon had houſes for the uſe of viſitants. Poetry aided the fame of this new-diſcovered ſpot, conſecrated alike to health and diſſipation. Waller makes his tuneful verſes celebrate the virtues of the waters, in the lines he addreſſed to his exquiſitely beautiful Sachariſſa. Dr. Rowzee wrote to prove the fact profeſſionally.

The civil wars that enſued left the wells neglected and almoſt forgotten; but legal government reſtored, they ſhone forth with redoubled luſtre. The ſincere joy that event brought with it, led the Engliſh to an extravagance of mirth and entertainment unknown before. It was ſeen every where, Tunbridge-wells uniting in the general ſentiment: hence we may date the aſſembly-room, bowling-green, and other appropriate places at Ruſthall; and another bowling-green and a coffee-houſe at Southborough. Lord Abergavenny's old wooden rails in 1664 gave place to a ſtrong ſtone encloſure, built by lord Muſkerry, ſon to the ſecond earl of Clancarty. His lordſhip alſo renewed the ſtone pavement within the wall, made a handſome baſin over the main ſpring, the better to receive the water; erected a convenient hall to ſhelter the dippers from the weather, during their hours of attendance upon the company, and made a projection

to

to preſerve the well from any mixture with rain-water. The wells, by his premature death, the following year, in the Dutch war, loſt a patron that would, had he lived, have perfected all that could be wanting. Few have ever been deſervedly loved or lamented by their ſovereign, ſoldiers, or tenants, more than this elegant, gallant, munificent, and charitable nobleman. The ſurrounding country caught the happy enthuſiaſm of the amiable young peer. The circumjacent wilds were ſpotted with neat, rural habitations; until whim, and ſome altercations between the lord of the manor and the tenants, ſoon varied the ſcene.

Ruſthall was deſerted for Mount Ephraim; and that for Southborough, which again was eclipſed by the new favourite Mount Sion. Here you might have ſeen a jovial company with a houſe placed upon a machine, conveying it to this future abode of pleaſure, attended with muſic and every feſtive decoration. The town of Tunbridge was now left to its original quiet; for the wells became a complete village, with houſes ſufficient to lodge all the viſitants, owing to the liberal manner with which the lord of the manor granted building and other leaſes. Benevolence united with piety, raiſed and ſupported the ſchool for feeding, clothing, and educating the children of the poor, and the chapel for the worſhip of the Almighty; which by an exceſs of loyalty was indecently dedicated to king Charles the martyr: there is only another inſtance of this enthuſiaſm. Charles had many great virtues, but he had many great failings; the former were the man's, the other the monarch's.

It muſt be allowed that no place owed more to the foſtering care of the royal houſe of Stuart than Tunbridge-wells. Henrietta-Maria firſt honoured it with her reſidence. Charles II. and Catharine his queen came hither, and delighted in this place. How inimitable is count Grammont's account of the diſſipated court whilſt here, in that moſt elegant edition of his Memoirs printed by the late earl of Orford; what he ſays of it cannot be omitted:

"Tunbridge is the ſame diſtance from London that Fontainebleau is from Paris, "and is, at the ſeaſon, the general rendezvous of all the gay and handſome of both "ſexes. The company, though always numerous, is always ſelect: ſince thoſe "who repair thither for diverſion, ever exceed the number of thoſe who go thither "for health. Every thing there breathes mirth and pleaſure; conſtraint is "baniſhed, familiarity is eſtabliſhed upon the firſt acquaintance, and joy and "pleaſure are the ſole ſovereigns of the place.

"The company are accommodated with lodgings in little, clean, and convenient "habita-

" habitations, that lie ſtraggling and ſeparated from each other, a mile and a half " all round the wells, where the company meet in the morning. This place conſiſts " of a long walk, ſhaded by pleaſant trees, under which they walk, while they " are drinking the waters. On one ſide of this walk is a long row of ſhops, plen- " tifully ſtocked with all manner of toys, lace, gloves, ſtockings, and where there " is raffling, as at Paris, in the Foire de Saint Germain. On the other ſide of the " walk is the market; and as it is the cuſtom here for every perſon to buy their " own proviſions, care is taken that nothing appears offenſive upon the ſtalls. " Here young, fair, freſh-coloured country girls, with clean linen, ſmall ſtraw " hats, and neat ſhoes and ſtockings, ſell game, vegetables, flowers, and fruit. " Here one may live as one pleaſes. Here is likewiſe deep play, and no want of " amorous intrigues. As ſoon as the evening comes, every one quits his little " palace to aſſemble on the bowling-green, where, in the open air, thoſe who " chooſe, dance upon a turf more ſoft and ſmooth than the fineſt carpet in the " world."

Here was the empire of love eſtabliſhed. Charles bent to that all-conquering, weak beauty, Miſs Stewart, afterwards dutcheſs of Richmond: even the hard-featured chymical prince Rupert became enamoured of Mrs. Hughes the actreſs. Here, in one of the conſtant evening dances at the queen's apartments, the diminutive, diſtorted lady Muſkerry, the well-known " princeſs of Babylon," dropped, in the quick, mazy dance, the cuſhion ſhe had placed to hide her advanced pregnancy, which was taken up by the facetious duke of Buckingham, and dandled as a new-born babe, to the no ſmall diverſion of the king and all the court: even the queen, though outwardly checking, inwardly enjoyed that mirth which ſhone every where around her, eſpecially in the features of Miſs Stewart, who laughed herſelf into hyſterics: but the cuſhion replaced, another round of country dances commenced, and the " princeſs of Babylon" went through the ſecond evolutions without any farther " miſcarriage." Here, too, the ſprightly Grammont became more enchanted with the beauteous, prudent Miſs Hamilton, who came hither from the melancholy reſidence of Peckham, and its tireſome maſter, Mr. Wetenhall.

No apology is offered for dwelling ſo long upon this brilliant part of the hiſtory of Tunbridge-wells, where majeſty honoured the ſcene, and beauty beſpangled every part of its bounds.—After two months, Catharine returned to London, leſs happy than the vain and fooliſh lady Muſkerry, the princeſs of Babylon, who report

report ſaid would have twins, whilſt the queen ſhowed no ſigns of ever being mother to one.

In 1670 his royal highneſs James duke of York, afterwards king James II., with his dutcheſs and two daughters, our future queens, Mary and Anne, came to the wells, as did the latter with the duke of Glouceſter her ſon, in 1688; and ſhe might have been the patroneſs of the place, when ſeated on the throne, if ſhe had not been diſguſted with the mercenary conduct of thoſe, whom ſhe had entruſted with money, to render it more eligible for the reception of the prince.

His preſent majeſty's father, and his illuſtrious conſort, came hither in 1739: the princeſs Amelia often, and his royal highneſs the duke of Cumberland in 1762. Their royal highneſſes the dukes of York and Glouceſter were here in 1765. The princeſs Sophia came to theſe ſprings in 1793, and by uſing the waters, happily obtained a perfect recovery. Hither alſo have lately been their royal highneſſes the duke and dutcheſs of York, of whoſe conjugal, and every other virtue, Britain juſtly boaſts.

Of the waters it may be remarked, that, if not ſo ſtrong, they are pleaſanter than many other chalybeate ſprings. The air is purer than that of any other part of England, being our Montpellier, conſequently the reſtoration of health to the viſitants may be due as much to the latter as the former.

We ſhall now deſcribe the preſent ſtate of this place and its environs. The wells, properly ſo called, form the centre, near which are the markets, the medicinal water, chapel, aſſembly-rooms, and public parades; the latter are called the upper and lower walk, formerly paved with brick, but in 1793 with Purbeck ſtone, at an expenſe of 710*l.*; the other is unpaved, and uſed chiefly by country people and ſervants.

On the right of the paved walk in the way from the well is the public parade, on which is one of the aſſembly-rooms, the library, coffee-houſe, poſt-office, Tunbridge ware, milliners', and different kinds of toy ſhops. A portico extends the whole length of the parade, ſupported by Tuſcan pillars, where the company occaſionally walk. On the left is a row of large flouriſhing trees, which has a gallery in the centre for muſic; the whole being divided from the lower walk by a range of neat paliſadoes. In this place are three principal taverns, the Suſſex, Kentiſh, and New Inn tavern. The Angel tavern and inn is by the road ſide

on entering the place, and near the mineral ſpring: they are all extremely well attended.

There are cluſters of houſes on Mount Sion hill, Mount Pleaſant, Mount Ephraim, and Biſhop's-down. The firſt is by far the moſt charming, combining all that a romantic ſituation, aided by taſte, can afford. Upon theſe different eminences are diſperſed ſome elegant ſeats; thoſe of the late Mrs. Wogan and Richard Cumberland, Eſq. are on Mount Sion. His grace of Leeds has one on Mount Pleaſant; and lady Peachey another, on what is called Little Mount Pleaſant. Mrs. Byng and Mrs. Whitaker have houſes on Mount Ephraim: Biſhop's-down has the ſeat of Martin Yorke, Eſq. To mention any particular houſes for the accommodation of viſitants would be invidious, unleſs all were given.

There may be ſaid to be a peculiar trade carried on here—turnery ware, called that of Tunbridge, in which the people greatly excel. A hiſtory of the place, more than what has been given, is not to be expected. One diſaſter alone is recorded, which happened in 1687:—a fire broke out in what is now called the Flat-houſe, at the bottom of the walk, which ſpread ſo rapidly, that the whole range of ſhops and other buildings were deſtroyed, and a child periſhed in the conflagration: the ſhops aroſe more beautiful than before. Here are two meeting-houſes, the laſt built by the miſtakenly pious counteſs of Huntingdon.

It would be unpardonable not to notice the rocks and Adam's well in the vicinity. The firſt is about one mile and an half diſtant from Tunbridge-wells. Nothing can be more romantic, and at the ſame time more ſtupendous. Here are ſeen vallies with a ſtream ſtealing through them, amid naked, craggy rocks, ſome of which are ſeventy feet high, and ſome thrown by the convulſions of nature upon others, in the rudeſt confuſion, and ſeem to menace inſtant death to the curious intruders. The duke of York, afterwards king James II., with the princeſſes his daughters, firſt brought theſe rocks into notice, ſince whoſe viſits a ſmall houſe has been erected, and hither the company often make parties.

Adam's well is more chalybeate than thoſe of Tunbridge, and, though till lately inacceſſible by carriages, more ancient. It was, indeed, ſo encircled by briars and thorns, that even foot paſſengers got thither with much difficulty and diſtreſs. About thirty years ago it was purchaſed by the late Mr. Pinchbeck, who, at the perſuaſion

perſuaſion of Mr. Foſter, an attorney of Yorkſhire, and others whoſe horſes had been cured by having drank of the ſpring, made it every way eligible for uſe, encloſing one part for the poor, and the other for horſes and dogs; and with a benevolence that deſerves the higheſt commendation, declared them free to whomſoever ſhould apply.

Tunbridge is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanery of Malling. Its venerable church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Here were buried many illuſtrious dead; and there are ſome handſome monuments within, and tombs without it. The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 90*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* It is in the gift of David Papillon, Eſq. whoſe ſon, the Rev. J. R. Papillon, A. M. is the preſent incumbent.

HADLOW.

HADLOW is a borough, in the lowy of Tunbridge: it includes its own pariſh, except a ſmall diſtrict in the northern part of it, which runs into the hundred of Littlefield. The pariſh is extenſive, rich in hop plantations, and no leſs ſo in its paſture. The rivulet called the Sheet croſſes this pariſh, and joins the Medway a little above Brandt-bridge. There is a flowing bolt at Harlake-bridge, by which, in dry ſeaſons, they can inundate the meadows, a ſcheme highly advantageous. The village is a thoroughfare from Maidſtone to Tunbridge. It has a wharf, called Hadlow ſtairs, where timber and coals are chiefly ſtowed. There is a fair on Whit-Monday.

In the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, Eddeva held Hadlow. William the Conqueror gave it to Richard de Tonebridge, who held it of that king's half-brother, Odo biſhop of Bayeux, afterwards of the ſee of Canterbury. It followed the deſcent of Tunbridge-caſtle, until the attainture of the laſt Stafford duke of Buckingham, when it often changed hands by attainture or ſale, until it ſettled in the Bartons, by marrying the elder coheir of the France family: Walter Barton, Eſq. who has taken the ſurname of May, is the preſent poſſeſſor. There is a court leet and baron held for the manor, and by a deciſion of law, it is now ſettled independent of Tunbridge.

Hadlow-place, anciently the ſeat of a family ſo called, went by alienation, in the reign of Henry VII., to the Fanes or Vanes; and by the ſame mean about that

of Charles I. to the family of Petley; and is now poſſeſſed by Mrs. Elizabeth Petley, the widow of Ralph-Robert-Carter Petley, of Riverhead, in Sevenoke, Eſq.

Fromands alias Goodwis, is a manor which came from the Fromunds to the Fane or Vane family, and from them to the Petleys. There is a court baron ſtill held for it.

Crombury or Eaſt-Crombury, anciently Cranchberi, afterwards Crongeberi, went from the de Horſmondens to the de Mereworths, thence to Fromunds, the Godwins, and the Peckhams; one of the latter ſold it to the Fanes or Vanes, and they to the Petleys, who now enjoy it, and alſo hold a court baron for it.

Cauſtons, another manor, gave name to a family who diſpoſed of it to the Wettons, they to the Fanes or Vanes; the Maynards purchaſed it of them, and ſold it to the Kippings; Mr. Thomas Kipping is the preſent poſſeſſor.

Goldwell or Coldwell was once the eſtate of Beald. It has been that of the Fromunds, Colepepers, Cottons, Chownes; the two latter receiving it by females. It was then ſold to the Bartons, who by a daughter took it to the Keriels, by whom it was ſold to Mr. William Heath, who leaving no iſſue, it deſcended to his ſiſter, Mrs. Elizabeth Burges of Weſterham, whoſe only ſon, Robert Burges, of Hall-place, in Lyghe, Eſq. lately died in poſſeſſion of it.

Peckhams is a manor that gave name to the de Peckhams, who held it of the Clares. It has been enjoyed by the Colepepers, Cottons, Herrers, Leighs, Rivens, Dallings, and now is veſted in Mr. Jonathan Chilwell, by marrying the heireſs of the laſt poſſeſſor.

Fiſh-hall, once belonging to the Fiſhers, who received that name, becauſe they had the liberty of fiſhing without control in the lowy of Tunbridge, given them by Gilbert de Clare earl of Glouceſter, and one of his deſcendants had a grant from Henry VIII. of the manor of Hadlow, and ſoon after of all the rivers, fiſheries, and ponds within it. He ſold it the Vanes, who alienated it to the knightly family of Rivers, who made it their reſidence. They ſold it to John France, the younger coheir of whom took it the Swaynes, and by them diſpoſed of to Mr. John Porter of Hadlow, the preſent owner.

Barnes-place is an eſtate of much extent. Sir John Van Hatton ſold it to Sarah viſcounteſs Falkland, who at her death deviſed it to her huſband Lucius Carey

Carey viſcount Falkland, with remainder to T.-Motley-Auſten Wilmington, Eſq.: he has purchaſed that nobleman's life eſtate, and now enjoys it.

The pariſh is in the deanery of Malling. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is ſmall, with a ſhort ſteeple. It once belonged to the Knights Templars, and is valued in the king's books at 13*l.*; the patron is Mr. James Berdmere.

Hundred of Wrotham.

THE hundred of Wrotham is weſt of Larkfield, and contains the pariſhes of Shipborne, Ightham, Wrotham, and Stanſted.

SHIPBORNE.

THIS pariſh, written Scriburna in the Textus Roffenſis, is below the ſand hills, and is accounted within the Weald. It is a diſagreeable part of the country, and travelling is extremely bad. It has its fair held upon St. Giles the abbot, September 1, which is of little conſequence.

The manor was once poſſeſſed by the de Says, and thence went to the de Bavents, a lady of which family gave it to the priory of Dartford: at its diſſolution it was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Ralph Fane, jointly with Anthony Tutſham, Eſq., who ſold his ſhare to the former, in whoſe family it remained until the death of William-Holles Vane, viſcount Vane of the kingdom of Ireland, who deviſed it to David Papillon, of Acriſe, Eſq. It is to be remarked that this nobleman was the character ſo much and ſo juſtly cenſured for his romantic affection to his lady Frances, the beautiful and accompliſhed widow of lord William Hamilton, and daughter of Francis Hawes, Eſq., a director of the South Sea company. The reader will recollect their hiſtory in Peregrine Pickle, from materials which ſhe gave to Dr. Smollett; but even that indecent relation, nor any other inſult to connubial love, could change his ill-placed devotion to the frail fair one.

Budds is a hamlet not quite a mile to the weſt of the church. It was formerly the reſidence of the Collins, ſince of the Turners, and is the property of George Children, of Tunbridge, Eſq.

This pariſh was the birth-place of the poet Smart, ſon of Peter Smart, Eſq., a native of the biſhopric of Durham, whoſe anceſtor was a very factious and juſtly

obnoxious prebendary of that church, puniſhed for his diſloyalty to Charles I., and rewarded for it by the parliament, yet he died inſolvent. Mr. Peter Smart was ſteward to the Vane family, but loſing that office, retired to Barming, where he died. Chriſtopher, his only ſon, the poet, left Kent, lived in London, as poets uſually live, and died in poverty and wretchedneſs, as too many of them have done.

The chapelry of Shipborne is in Malling deanery. It is not in charge; but pays a fee-farm rent of eight ſhillings yearly to the crown. It is in the gift of Mr. Papillon; the preſent curate is the Rev. Dr. Viceſimus Knox, the learned maſter of Tunbridge ſchool.

I G H T H A M.

THIS pariſh might be ſuppoſed of great conſequence from the name Ightham, literally meaning Eightham, a place compoſed of eight boroughs or hams; which are Eightham, Redwell, Ivyhatch, Borough-green, St. Cleres, the Moat, Beaulies, and Oldborough: but on the contrary, it is not more than five miles long, and only one wide. It is neither pleaſant nor profitable; much, indeed, is waſte land. They have a fair on Wedneſday in Whitſun-week, which has acquired the name of Coxcombe fair, but for which no reaſon is aſſigned.

It, however, boaſts ſome antiquities. Through it runs the military road of the Romans, leading from Ofham and Camps, pointing towards the weſt. Oldberry and Stone-ſtreet are appropriate names: at the former, ſignifying Oldborough, is a very conſiderable intrenchment of that once great people, the cruel enſlavers of other nations. It is of an oval form, containing 137 acres; there is a cave, which is ſuppoſed to have led to a long ſubterraneous paſſage: this place is thought with ſome reaſon to have been a caſtra æſtiva, or ſummer quarters. Two fine ſprings are in the centre of this ancient encloſure.

The manor of Ightham was, ſo early as the reign of Henry III., held by the de Crevequers; from that time it paſſed through a great variety of owners, and is now the property of Richard James, Eſq., colonel in the Weſt Kent regiment of militia, deſcended from a family who have owned it from the reign of Henry VIII. having been purchaſed by Roger Van Haſtretcht, of Dutch parentage, but ſettling in London, took the name of James.

St. Cleres, or Weſt Aldham manor, joining Kempſing, was originally the property

property of the Aldhams, but came by purchaſe to the Sidley family in the reign of Charles I. by a female, from whom it deſcended to the Evelyns; from them in the ſame way to Alexander Hume, of Hendley, in Surry, Eſq., brother to Sir Abraham Hume, who has taken the name of Evelyn, and reſides at St. Clere.

The Moat, adjoining to Shipborne, is an ancient ſeat and manor, with a park. They were long in the poſſeſſion of the Hauts, one of whom being beheaded by Richard III., at Pontefract, for aiding the duke of Buckingham in his deſign to dethrone him, his eſtates were granted to that infamous character, Sir Robert Brakenbury, lieutenant of the Tower, who was ſheriff of this county; but after his death, at Boſworth, where he fell with the cruel Richard, the lands were given again to the Hauts; they ſoon after parted with them. The benevolent Sir John Allen, lord mayor of London in 1526 and 1536, was once the owner of it. His ſon ſold it to the Selbys, which family expired in 1781, when it was claimed by John Brown, Eſq., who has taken the name of Selby, and now reſides here.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is in Shoreham deanery. It is valued at 15*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*; the lords of the manor are patrons. The preſent rector is George Bitheſea, A. M.

WROTHAM.

THE derivation of Wrotham is difficult to determine. It is written in Domeſday-book Broteham, and is generally pronounced Ruteham. It is every way an important pariſh; five miles in length from north to ſouth, and from two to three in breadth; fertile in its valley, and ſterile on its very high hill. The village, or town rather, had its market on a Tueſday, and it ſtill retains its annual fair, held on May 4, for horſes, cattle, &c. In the middle of the town ſtand its market-place and common well, both reparable by the lord of the manor. The great road from London to Maidſtone paſſes through this place, from which it is diſtant twenty-four miles. At Baſted is a paper mill belonging to Mr. Taylor. The Weald takes in part of the pariſh. The Roman military way went from Ofham through Wrotham, near the Camps weſtward, leading to Oldborough and Stone-ſtreet; but we do not think it was the Roman ſtation Vagniacæ—yet here might have been a town even in the time of the Britons; for about ſeventy years ago, ſilver money coined by thoſe, our anceſtors, was diſcovered by a mole having thrown up ſome of them, which were all claimed by the lord of the manor.

Within

Within theſe three or four years, in making a new road through this pariſh, ſeveral urns were found by the workmen, who wondered to ſee ſo many "bones jugged "in that manner."

In Sir Thomas Wyat's rebellion againſt queen Mary, his friend, Sir Henry Iſley, in marching towards Rocheſter to aid him, was overtaken at Blackſole-field, in this pariſh, by Sir Robert Southwell the ſheriff, and lord Abergavenny; with five hundred gentlemen and yeomen, and completely beaten, the rebels flying with the utmoſt precipitation to Hartley-wood, about four miles from the field of battle, many of whom were killed, and about ſixty were taken priſoners: the dead were buried at Blackſole-field. Sir Henry fled into Hampſhire, where he was taken, diſguiſed as one who had belonged to a coal-veſſel, and in that unſeemly condition conveyed to the Tower, and being condemned, was executed.

The Anglo-Saxon monarch Edgar in 964 gave Wrotham to Chriſt-church, in Canterbury; but it was in the diviſion between that convent and the metropolitical ſee aſſigned by archbiſhop Lanfranc, in 1070, to the latter: but it appears by Domeſday-book that there were tenants in ſoccage under the archbiſhop, beſides what Richard de Tonebridge held of his lowy.

The prelates enjoyed this manor until its exchange by Cranmer to Henry VIII. for other lands. They had anciently a palace here, until it was partly taken down by Iſlip, to finiſh that which Ufford had begun: at Maidſtone it ſtood on the eaſt ſide of the church-yard: a gateway and ſome remains of the offices are ſtill ſtanding; and the garden, bowling-green, and ſurrounding terrace may be traced. The park was ſouth-eaſt, and the lodge is ſtill in being: the land has for more than two centuries been diſparked. Edward VI. granted the whole to Sir John Maſon, he to the Bings, and they to the anceſtor of Richard James, of Ightham, Eſq., who now inherits it. Walter archbiſhop of Canterbury had the privilege of a weekly market on Thurſdays, and a fair on the feaſt of St. George, granted him by Edward II. to be held at this his manor.

Little Wrotham lies towards the north-eaſt part of this pariſh, next to Trotteſcliffe. Odo alſo in the Conqueror's reign poſſeſſed this manor, as did Richard de Tonebridge in that part which was his lowy; and Godwin and Edwin held it for two manors in the Confeſſor's time. It fell to the crown upon the biſhop of Bayeux's diſgrace; but was, in a ſucceeding reign, given to Geoffry Talbot, who granted the greater part of it to the ſee of Rocheſter, which paid aid for half a knight's

knight's fee for it, the whole of which is 130 acres; the remainder, about twenty acres, is the property of Mr. Tomlyn, of Neupiker. Together they pay forty ſheaves or ſhocks of wheat to the rector of Wrotham.

Wrotham-place is on the ſouth ſide of Wrotham-ſtreet. It has been for many centuries the reſidence of gentry: the baronet family of Rayney were in poſſeſſion of it at the commencement of the preſent one, ſince which time it has been the ſeat of the Haddocks, and is now the habitation of Charles Haddock, Eſq.

Yaldham is another diſtrict lying to the weſt of the church. Its manors are Eaſt or Great Yaldham, Weſt or Little Yaldham, and Yaldham or St. Cleres in Ightham, all compriſed under the name of Ealdham, i. e. old dwelling. From the Aldham family they came to the Peckhams; the latter were reſident in this pariſh ſo early as the reign of Richard I.: they continued at Yaldham until the year 1713, when they paſſed it away to George St. Loe, Eſq., a captain in the royal navy, and commiſſioner of Chatham yard; whoſe ſon diſpoſed of it to Mr. Francis Auſten, of Sevenoke, who ſold it to W. E. Glanville, father of William-Evelyn Glanville, Eſq., the preſent owner.

It is ſingular that the Peckhams ſhould continue ſtationary here ſuch a length of time: the moſt memorable of them was Reginald Peckham, Eſq., ſon of the high ſheriff who diſtinguiſhed himſelf againſt Sir Thomas Wyat. Since they have left Yaldham, their manſion is become a farm-houſe, and the courts for the manor have been diſcontinued. The tithes were given by Gosfrid de Ros to the priory of St. Andrews, in Rocheſter: at the diſſolution Henry VIII. gave them to the ſee of Rocheſter. W. G. Evelyn, Eſq. is the preſent leſſee.

Ford was the manor and ſeat of Le Clerkes or Clerkes, from the reign of Henry V. to that of Charles II. One of them was particularly obnoxious to the rebels under Sir Thomas Wyat. Another memorable perſon of the family was Sir William Clerke, knighted for his eminent loyalty by Charles I.; he died with Sir Philip Boteler, his neighbour, at Cropredy-bridge, at the head of the regiments they had raiſed. The eſtate went by purchaſe to Mr. John Know, whoſe daughter and heir took it to the Bartholomew family, and from them it has been deviſed to its preſent owner, Sir William Geary, Bart., one of the repreſentatives of the county. The ſeat is now uſed as a farm-houſe.

The hamlet of Borough-green, a mile from the church to the north, has the manor

of Wingfield, lying within the borough of the ſame name, belonging anciently to the St. Quintins, who ſold it to the Peckhams, of Yaldham; they to the Millers, of Crouch; who, by a female, took it to Mr. Munday, of Derbyſhire; and in 1756 he diſpoſed of it to Sarah viſcounteſs Falkland; and it is now the property of F.-Motley Auſten, Eſq., who obtained it in the ſame manner as he did Barnes-place, in Hadlow. No court is held for the manor, and the ſeat of Horſnel's-Crouch, in the hamlet of Crouch, is now only a farmer's reſidence.

Great and Little Comp are to the ſouth of Wrotham-heath, and are two hamlets, taking their names from two camps, raiſed, probably, by the Romans. Here was formerly a chapel; the remains are ſtill diſcernable, which belonged to Leyborne, though there are two pariſhes between it and this place; the glebe ſtill remains with that preferment, and is a great part of its income. The lands in this hamlet are much divided. A ſingular circumſtance happened ſome years ago at this place; in falling a tree, a great number of ſolid pieces of braſs were diſcovered under the roots.

Plaxtool is a very conſiderable hamlet, and the ſtreet ſo called makes a village of itſelf. In it is the manor of Sore, anciently belonging to the Colepepers, of Preſton, in Aylesford; from thence it paſſed, in the time of queen Elizabeth, to the Millers: the laſt baronet dying without iſſue in 1714, it went to the family of Bartholomew; and with the adjoining manor of Badleſmere, is poſſeſſed by Leonard Bartholomew, of Addington, Eſq. In the manor-houſe of Sore is a chapel, ſuppoſed to have been uſed by the people of this diſtrict before the preſent ſtructure was erected.

Fair-lawn is quite at the outſkirt of Wrotham, ſo that the ſtables belonging to the ſeat are in the pariſh of Shipborne. It has belonged to the Bavents, Colepepers, Chownes, and Vanes; the late viſcount Vane deviſed it to D. Papillon, Eſq. This houſe was peculiarly unfortunate; a wing juſt rebuilt was burnt down in 1739, and before it could be again erected met with a ſimilar fate in 1742: not diſcouraged, however, it was a third time built.

The chapel ſtands at the weſt end of the village; it continued with divine ſervice being performed only caſually, until Thomas Stanley, gentleman, in 1638 gave an eſtate, valued ſeven pounds, to ſupport a curate; and the parliament, in 1648, divided the whole hamlet off from the reſt of the pariſh, and made it a

ſeparate one, giving a brief to collect money ſufficient to build a church there: in conſequence, the preſent ſacred ſtructure was erected; but at the Reſtoration it was conſidered only as a chapel, and having received queen Anne's bounty of 200*l.*, with an appointment from the incumbent of the mother church, makes a ſuitable proviſion for the curate, who is the Rev. Thomas Daliſon.

Wrotham, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Shoreham, is a peculiar to the ſee of Canterbury. The rector has the tithes of the chapelry of Woodland, and the adjoining pariſh of Stanſted; of the former, ever ſince its chapel went to ruin in Elizabeth's reign; and of the latter, ſince, as well as before, the Uſurpation, when, like thoſe of Plaxſtool, they were taken from the clergyman of Wrotham.

The church ſtands in the town, is a very large and fine Gothic edifice; the chancel was beautified and repaired by Dr. Potter, a late rector. The braſs plates are very numerous in the body of the church. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 50*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.*; the vicarage at 19*l.* 0*s.* 10¾*d.* In this century they have been conſtantly given to the ſame clergyman, and unitedly make it the beſt piece of parochial preferment in the county; not leſs than 1000*l.* per annum. The rectorial houſe is a ſuitable reſidence to ſo valuable a living, which is rendered more ſo by having a large glebe. The vicarage-houſe is a mean building; it is in the road from Wrotham leading to Yaldham. The Rev. Richard Levett is the preſent incumbent: he was formerly rector of Berkſwell, in Warwickſhire, and with it held the chapelry of Barſton, in the ſame county.

We muſt remark to the botaniſt, that the pentaphyllum, or creeping cinquefoil, is found in conſiderable quantities near the town of Wrotham. It appears that this pariſh had more gentlemen's ſeats in the two preceding centuries than the preſent. Formerly Wrotham contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rocheſter bridge.

STANSTED.

THIS pariſh is north of Wrotham: its derivation is from ſtane, a ſtone, and ſted, a place. It boaſts of a fine extended proſpect; but that ill compenſates for its rough, uncultivated ſurface; chalk, flints, and bruſh-wood, every where preſent themſelves.

Its manor, eſteemed a borough to Wrotham, has gone through a variety of dif-

ferent families; and is now enjoyed by Richard James, of Ightham, Eſq., whoſe anceſtors purchaſed it of the Bings.

Scranks, the other manor in this pariſh, was, in Henry III.'s reign, veſted in the ſee of Canterbury; but, in the following one, a family obtained it, who took the ſurname of Scranks, and after many changes, it was purchaſed by Mr. John Cox, who, adding other lands to it, built a manſion here, to which he gave the appropriate name of Fairſeat; but as the view from thence is great, it has given place to Fairſee. He left this eſtate to John Cox, Eſq., his ſon, who dying without iſſue, it devolved to his ſiſter Sarah, who took it to her huſband, George Wilſon, Eſq.; they reſide here.

The church is dedicated to the bleſſed Virgin; it has ſunk to the ſtate of a chapel of eaſe, and the nomination of its curate is veſted in the rector of Wrotham. The parliament in 1647, by one of their pretended ordinances, made it a pariſh of itſelf; but at the return of Charles II. it reverted to its ſubordinate ſituation, and as ſuch it is mentioned in the king's books, and without any valuation.

Mr. Haſted relates a circumſtance which happened in this pariſh; if not well atteſted, it would ſeem incredible. "About Eaſter, in the year 1666, a paſture "field in this pariſh, which is a conſiderable diſtance from the ſea, or any branch "of it, and a place where there are no fiſh-ponds, but a ſcarcity of water, was "ſcattered all over with ſmall fiſh, in quantity about a buſhel, ſuppoſed to have "been rained down from a cloud, there having been at that time a great tempeſt of "thunder, hail, wind, &c. Theſe fiſh were about the ſize of a man's little finger; "ſome were like ſmall whitings, others like ſprats, and ſome ſmaller like ſmelts. "Several of theſe fiſh were ſhown publicly at Maidſtone and Dartford."

Hundred of Littlefield.

WE now deſcend again ſomewhat ſouthward to the hundred of Littlefield, compriſing only Mereworth, a part of Weſt Peckham, and part of the pariſhes of Hadlow and Eaſt Peckham, the churches of which are in another hundred.

This hundred is judiciouſly called Little; in Domeſday-book it is written Litlefelle, and elſewhere Leighfield. It was, in the reign of Edward II., poſſeſſed by the crown: that monarch, with the approbation of his parliament, granted it to his

his half-brother Edmond of Woodſtock, then created earl of Kent. His daughter Joan, in the end his heir, took it in marriage to the equally illuſtrious and unfortunate Hollands. It continued in ſome one or other branch of the royal family after it left them, and in the reign of Henry VIII. it was again enjoyed by the ſovereign. Dudley duke of Northumberland held it a ſhort time. Queen Elizabeth, in the latter part of her reign, granted it to the Cobhams: that weak and wicked peer, Henry lord Cobham, loſt it for his treaſon to James I., and it has not ſince that time been in the poſſeſſion of a ſubject.

WEST OR LITTLE PECKHAM.

THIS pariſh is eaſt of Shipborne: it has loſt little of its original name, peack, high, and ham, a village. It is rich in meadow land; every part of it is in the Weald. The quarry ſtone hills bound it to the north, covered with the Herſt woods. It is finely watered; a ſtreamlet paſſes through the pariſh, upon which are two corn mills. Its two parks were diſparked before the year 1570.

The inhabitants were aſſeſſed in part to repair the fifth pier of Rocheſter bridge. The village fair is held yearly on the 16th of June.

The manor of Little Peckham was the eſtate of earl Leofwine, brother of Harold II. William the Conqueror gave it to Odo biſhop of Bayeux. In the reign of king John it was poſſeſſed by Beudeville, who held it by grand ſergeancy, by the ſervice of bearing one of the king's goſhawks beyond ſea, from the feaſt of St. Michael to that of the Purification, when demanded, and this in lieu of every other ſervice. Such tenures appear to us extraordinary; but when we reflect that in the days of our Normanic and Angevine ſovereigns, the ſports of the field were the firſt, almoſt the only royal amuſement, it takes away much of our ſurpriſe. The manor going into another family, they aſſumed its name; but it remained there only a little time, and in Edward III.'s reign it was divided; one part of it is now the property of lord Le Deſpenſer.

The other part was taken by Elizabeth, daughter and heir of the Burghs earls of Ulſter, to her huſband Lionel duke of Clarence, third ſon of Edward III., whoſe daughter Philippa gave it to Edmond Mortimer earl of March, and from thence it paſſed to the Colepepers of Oxenhoath, in this pariſh, until judge Colepeper, in king Henry IV.'s reign, gave it to the Knights Templers, who made

made it a preceptory, commandery, or chantry magiſtrale, being a manſion where ſome of that ſociety dwelt, to take care and be ſtewards of the eſtates the knights held in that part of the county. The manor was valued at 63*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum, and 60*l.* clear income.

Henry VIII. gave it to Sir Robert Southwell, who, as well as his brother, were miniſters to that monarch, and his three children who ſucceeded him. It is impoſſible to determine whether moſt to admire their abilities, or deteſt their vices; the Southwells were the moſt profligate family that ſtains our biographical volumes. Sir Robert was ſheriff of Kent in the year of Sir Thomas Wyat's rebellion, and whoſe projects he oppoſed with energy and judgment. The manor was ſold by him to the Walſinghams; it came next to the family of Maſter, and is now the property of the earl of Torrington.

Hamptons, a ſeat ſtanding at the weſt end of the pariſh, with its borough of the ſame name, ſuppoſed in the hundred and manor of Great Hoo, near Rocheſter, came to the Stanleys, of Lancaſhire, in Elizabeth's reign, who, by a female, took it to the Dalyſons: the preſent owner is William Dalyſon, Eſq.

Oxenhoath, though ſo far diſtant, is accounted in the hundred and manor of Hoo, near Rocheſter, the court of which yearly elect a borſholder for this hundred. Its manor, called alſo Toxenhoath, is held of that of Hoo, by the ſervice of a pair of gilt ſpurs: that acknowledgment is diſcontinued. The Colepepers long enjoyed it: by one of the coheirs of Sir Richard Colepeper, ſheriff of Kent in the eleventh year of Edward IV., it came to the Cottons, who conveyed it to the Chownes, they to the Millers; the daughter and heir of the laſt of them brought it to the Bartholomews, from whom, by a female, it was inherited by Sir William Geary, Bart., M. P., who now reſides in the handſome ſeat of Oxenhoath.

This pariſh is within the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Malling. Its church is ſmall, with a ſhort ſteeple. The priory of Leeds held the great tithes; the dean and chapter of Rocheſter now have them, and have alſo ſucceeded to the patronage. It is a diſcharged living, but greatly improved lately by queen Anne's bounty. The vicarage was rebuilt by the benevolence of Philip Bartholomew, of Oxenhoath, Eſq. The preſent incumbent is Richard Bathurſt, A. M.

MERE-

MEREWORTH.

THIS pariſh lies eaſt from Weſt Peckham: it is always written Mereworth, yet ſeldom ſo called, but Merrud, a pronunciation nearer to its original name in Domeſday-book, where it is given Marourde. It ſlided gradually to its preſent orthography, being in the Textus Roffenſis Mæruurtha, and Meranwyrthe, very barbarous words.

This is one of thoſe pariſhes which compoſe the charming ride from Maidſtone to Tunbridge, and having been the reſidence of nobility and taſte, we ſee every where marks of elegance and expenſe. Its plantations are extenſive, its paſturage wonderfully fine, ſupporting oxen larger than elſewhere in the county. The Medway glides through, and its woods are beautifully contraſted with the other parts of the ſcenery, making a delightful whole: it is a landſcape not grand and terrific, but ſuch as may be expected from the improvement of man in his higheſt ſtate of civilization. The one may be awfully ſublime, the other exquiſitely pleaſing.

The manor belonged to Hamo de Crevequer, vicecomes, or ſheriff of this county under William the Conqueror, and until his death in the time of Henry I. Soon after it came to another family, who took their ſurname from it. The de Mereworths reſided here, and obtained the royal leave to make their ſeat a caſtle; at their failure of heirs male it came to John de Malmains, who ſold it to the Brembres, and they forfeiting it by attainture, Richard II. granted it to John Hermenthorpe, who diſpoſed of it to the Fitzalans, earls of Arundel; from them, by a female, it came to the ennobled families of Beauchamp, who took it, and the barony of Abergavenny, to the Nevils; and they alſo failing in the male line, this eſtate came by a daughter to Sir Thomas Fane: James I. created and allowed her to be baroneſs Le Deſpenſer, as ſome recompence for the barony of Abergavenny going to the Nevils. He was the father of two ſons; Francis, the eldeſt, was created baron Burgherſh, and earl of Weſtmorland; and Henry, anceſtor of the viſcounts Fane. George, the younger ſon of lady Le Deſpenſer, had the manor, ſeat, and advowſon of Mereworth, whoſe grandſon deviſed the whole to Mildmay Fane, Eſq. younger brother of Thomas earl of Weſtmorland, to whom he left theſe premiſes: deſirous to diſpoſe of all his Kentiſh eſtates, he procured an act of parliament to empower him to ſell them, but afterwards his lordſhip was ſo pleaſed with

with Mereworth, that, ſo far from carrying his firſt intentions into effect, of making Apethorp, in Northamptonſhire, his ſeat, he came, reſided, and died at Mereworth-caſtle.

At his death his title of earl of Weſtmorland, with the eſtates, came to Mildmay, another brother, who had been created baron Catherlough, of the kingdom of Ireland. This nobleman was the embelliſher, the patron of Mereworth; for he rebuilt the ſeat in a moſt elegant ſplendid manner, as alſo the church and parſonage-houſe; and adorned the whole place with marks of his munificence. In every ſituation he was called to fill he behaved with the mind of a prince; in nothing more than at his inſtallation, when to the office of high ſteward was added that of chancellor of the univerſity of Oxford. Dying in 1762 without iſſue, the Iriſh title became extinct; that of Weſtmorland went to Thomas Fane, Eſq., a merchant at Briſtol: but the barony of Le Deſpenſer deſcended to Sir Francis Daſhwood, Bart., which alſo was confirmed by his majeſty; and the ſeat, and whatever elſe belonged to it in this pariſh, was deviſed to him by the earl, with remainder to Sir Thomas Stapleton, Bart. This nobleman, ſo well known for the magnificence of his numerous buildings at High Wicombe, and for the extreme profligacy of his manners, leaving no iſſue, Mereworth-caſtle and its dependencies came to Sir Thomas Stapleton, Bart., who alſo, by the death of Rachael, lady Le Deſpenſer, ſiſter of the late lord Le Deſpenſer, and widow of Sir Robert Auſten, Bart., ſucceeded to that title. His lordſhip now reſides here; he and his lady Elizabeth, ſecond daughter of S. Eliot, of Antigua, Eſq., commanding the love of all around them by their virtues, eſpecially their great benevolence to the poor.

It would be unpardonable not to ſpeak particularly of a ſeat, the pride of this part of Kent. It is called a caſtle; but for this there is no other reaſon than its having been built upon the ſcite of one; it is ſtill moated, has four fronts, each has a portico, thoſe on the ſides are cloſed; the rooms and offices for ſervants are under the hall, and the moſt magnificent apartments. In the centre is a cupola, lighted at the top, and from this all the apartments diverge, and the wall being double, admits the flues to be taken to the top of the cupola, by which mean the ſmoke is ſuffered to eſcape, without the offenſive appearance of chimnies. The wings are equal in elegance to the body. In the front of the houſe is a large ſheet of water, upon which is an elegant veſſel. Lord Weſtmorland cut a road through the woods to join that from London: this was done at a vaſt expenſe, being three miles.

miles. The neighbouring hills are all planted, and have proſpect-rooms upon them, from which, wherever the eye is turned, are ſeen elegant ſtructures, forming appropriate objects.

The caſtle is from a deſign of Palladio, which had charmed lord Weſtmorland in a ſeat near Venice, built for a great eccleſiaſtic; but it was injudiciouſly adopted, being rather for the climate of Italy than Britain; beſides, it is far leſs than the original; from which cauſe all the apartments are too ſmall, being ſacrificed to external beauty. Its fine flight of ſteps, its dome, the grandeur of its wings, all have, however, ſo impoſing an appearance, that few will let juſt criticiſm exert her powers. The wing which is now the ſtables, was the ſpot where lately the pariſh church ſtood: the pariſhioners were extremely and juſtly hurt, that the houſe of God ſhould give place to the habitation of horſes, and that ground conſecrated for the repoſe of their venerated relatives' remains, ſhould become a dunghill.

The houſe has been furniſhed and adorned by the preſent noble owner, in the moſt coſtly and ſuperb ſtyle. The eye of taſte is hurt to ſee the high varniſh upon the fine collection of pictures; it proved, as was expected, that they had been ſent to London to be greatly injured. Here is a collection of ſtuffed animals and birds.

Yokes-place, anciently written Jeotes, afterward Jotes, is a very handſome ſeat, the poſſeſſion of which has been in the Sharſtedes, Clintons earls of Huntingdon, the crown, Fitzalans earls of Arundel, Beauchamps earls of Worceſter, the Nevils lords Abergavenny, the Southwells, Walſinghams, and the Maſters, by whom it was left to their relation William Daniel, Eſq., who in compliance with the requeſt of the teſtator, took the name of his benefactor: he expended large ſums in almoſt rebuilding the ſeat, and laying out the adjoining land according to the improved plan as adopted by Brown: it is now the reſidence of Mrs. Maſters his widow, upon whoſe death it will be the property of the earl of Torrington, Mr. Maſters having left no legitimate iſſue.

The manor of Swanton-court to the weſtward of Yokes, followed the deſcent of that part of Weſt or Little Peckham manor, which fell to the knights of St. John of Jeruſalem, and, like it, is now poſſeſſed by lord Torrington. The houſe is uſed by a cottager, and is as mean as ſuch dwellings uſually are.

Fowkes, a manor, once an appendage to that of Watringbury, anciently belonged

to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, near the Tower in London. It is now the eſtate of Sir Charles Style, Bart., whoſe family have long enjoyed it.

Barons-place was owned by Sir Nicholas Pelham, of Cattsfield-place, in Suſſex, who paſſed it to Chriſtopher Vane, lord Bernard; ſince that time it has deſcended with Shipborne and Fairlawne, until it now, with them, centres in D. Papillon, Eſq.

Mereworth is within the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to St. Laurence, is a magnificent ſtructure, conſecrated Auguſt 26, 1746. It was built in the centre of the village by John earl of Weſtmorland, upon the model of the late church of St. Paul in Covent-garden, the deſign of which was by Inigo Jones. The ſteeple is fine, but unfortunately the ſtone of the upper part is ſandy, and, though erected ſo lately, wants repairing. The eaſt window is beautifully adorned with the fineſt painted glaſs brought from the old caſtle. A gallery is appropriated for the uſe of lord Le Deſpenſer's family; the church has no pews, but ſeats like thoſe upon the continent; the pillars are painted to repreſent marble: the interior is more gaudy than majeſtic. In a chapel at the weſt end are the remains of ſome of the earls of Weſtmorland, and with their wives and offspring were removed to that place when the old church was taken down. To the memory of one of them is a very elegant coſtly monument. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* The owners of the caſtle have always been the patrons; the preſent incumbent is the Rev. Robert Style, A. M., third ſon of the late Sir Thomas Style, Bart., and uncle to the preſent Sir Charles Style, Bart.; he is alſo vicar of Watringbury, and is an active, judicious magiſtrate. The earl of Weſtmorland equally diſliked the parſonage, or the church, ſo near the caſtle; he therefore took down the former, built an elegant ſtructure at ſome diſtance, and exchanged other lands for the old glebe, part of which now encircles the parſonage-houſe, and has been laid out with great taſte by Mr. Style, who is the firſt rector that ever reſided in the new houſe.

We ſhall not quit this pariſh without obſerving that it is very healthy: in 1604 Martha Mills, widow, died, aged 102 years. In the Quarry-hills are ſtill remaining ſome of the martin cats, like thoſe of Hudſon's Bay; and ſo late as queen Elizabeth's reign were wild ſwine in the Herſt woods: the Weald anciently had many, from the quantity of pannage or food, chiefly acorns which fell from the oaks abounding in that diſtrict.

HUNDRED OF TWYFORD.

THIS hundred lies to the ſouth of that of Littlefield: it was anciently called Tuiferde, as we ſee by Domeſday-book, ſignificant of the two fords, then over the branches of the Medway, a little above Yalding. It compriſes the whole of the pariſhes of Nettleſted, Watringbury, Teſton, and Weſt Farleigh; part of thoſe of Eaſt Peckham, Yalding, and Hunton, all of whoſe churches are within it; and ſome part of the pariſhes of Brenchley, Capel, Marden, Pembury, and Tudeley, the churches of which being in other hundreds, beyond the preſcribed bounds of this work, will not be noticed.

EAST PECKHAM.

SOUTH of Mereworth is Eaſt or Great Peckham, alſo within the Weald. A ſtreamlet paſſes through this pariſh, riſing near Yokes, and mixing with the Medway: upon the former is Brandt-bridge. The roads from Maidſtone to Tunbridge lie through this Peckham, as does that through Watringbury to Nettleſted.

This pariſh was given in 961 to Chriſt-church, in Canterbury, by queen Ediva, mother of the Anglo-Saxon monarchs Edmund and Edred, and free from all ſecular ſervice, excepting *trinoda neceſſitas*, repelling invaſions, and repairing caſtles and highways. At the partition of that monaſtery's lands with thoſe of the ſee of Canterbury, by archbiſhop Lanfranc, this fell to the monks.

At the diſſolution of abbies, Henry VIII. granted this manor to Sir Thomas Wyat the elder, *in capite*, by knight's ſervice, who conveyed it to George Multon; but upon Sir Thomas Wyat's attainture it was reclaimed by the crown, as it had been limited to the heirs male of his father, who had neglected to levy a fine or recovery. Queen Mary gave it to Sir John Baker; from that time it went through various families, until it came to that of the Twiſdens. Sir William-Jarvis Twiſden, Bart., now enjoys the court-lodge and demeſnes of the manor; but the manor has ever remained in the crown, except during the Uſurpation, when it was granted to colonel Gibbon, who loſt it at the Reſtoration. The preſent grantee is his grace the duke of Leeds.

Roydon-hall, formerly named Fortune, was the ſeat of the Roydons, one of whoſe daughters and coheirs took it to the Twiſdens; and Sir William-Jarvis

Twiſden, Bart., ſtill poſſeſſes it, and reſides in this ancient ſeat. The manors of Albans or Wimplingbury, generally called Auborne, with thoſe of Eaſtmere and Spilſted, are now alſo held by Sir W. J. Twiſden, Bart.

The manor of Black-pitts or Guildfords was united to that of Albans for ſome centuries, but at length by an heireſs of the Stidulfes it came to the Fanes earls of Weſtmorland, and is now by the limitation of one of them veſted in lord Le Deſpenſer.

Hextall's-court was a place of much conſequence in former ages; and took its name from a family originally of Hextall, in Staffordſhire. In the reign of Richard II. Richard Hextall reſided at this ſeat: his eldeſt ſon and heir dying without iſſue, it paſſed with Margaret, his younger daughter and coheir, to William Whetenhall, Eſq., who died here at the latter end of Henry VI.'s reign. Margaret his widow was remarried to Henry Ferrers, Eſq., ſeated at Hambleton, in Rutlandſhire; he was ſecond ſon of Thomas Ferrers, of Tamworth-caſtle, in Warwickſhire, and, it may be preſumed, reſided here, as he was ſheriff of this county in the ninth year of Edward IV. and third of Henry VII. At his death Hextall reverted to the ſon of her firſt huſband, and Sir Edward Ferrers, her eldeſt ſon by her ſecond marriage, ſettled at Baddeſley-Clinton, in Warwickſhire, anceſtor of the antiquary of that name. That ſeat is ſtill poſſeſſed by Edward Ferrers, Eſq., the head of that ancient and once illuſtrious houſe, which has given earls to Derby, and has had ſo many barons of Groby. The windows at Baddeſley, rich in emblazonry, exhibit the arms of the Hextalls with others, their marriages and deſcendants, from the time of the Norman conqueſt until the ſeventeenth century. One of the Hextalls diſgavelled this eſtate by an act of parliament; from them it paſſed to John Fane earl of Weſtmorland, and is now the property of lord Le Deſpenſer.

The borough of Stokenbury, mentioned in Domeſday-book as the property of Ralph Fitz-Turold, held of the biſhop of Bayeux, though in this pariſh, is within the manor of Eaſt Farleigh, to which quit-rents are paid, and a borſholder elected for it.

This pariſh is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, but is a peculiar to the ſee of Canterbury, and as ſuch included in the deanry of Shoreham. Its church, dedicated to St. Michael, is large, with a ſquare tower, ſituate on the top of a hill at one end of the pariſh, and is cloſe to Mereworth-park. The great tithes belonging to the priory

of

of Chriſt-church, in Canterbury, came to the crown at the diſſolution of that religious houſe, who gave it the newly erected dean and chapter of Canterbury, now patrons of the vicarage, which is valued in the king's books at 14*l.*; the preſent vicar is Thomas Viner, L. L. D., a prebendary of Canterbury. This pariſh contributed formerly to the repair of the fifth pier of Rocheſter bridge, as did that which is next in order of deſcription, as well as ſome others.

WATRINGBURY.

NORTH-EAST from the laſt pariſh is Watringbury, in Domeſday-book written Oſtringaberia; in the Textus Roffenſis, Wotringaberia: the derivation is ſuppoſed to have been from its ſituation, which is watery. It is nearly a ſquare of a mile and quarter, and its population is eſtimated to be eighty-three families.

The village is very pleaſant; the land good, though not ſo well planted as the adjoining ones. The Maidſtone road to Tunbridge goes through this pariſh, and the Medway waters it. The ſprings are here extremely fine, and a ſtream riſes near the ſeat of Sir Charles Style, upon which a conſiderable mill is erected, and gliding on, joins that river at Bow-bridge.

The hamlet of Pizein-well, ſo called from an owner of a well there, lies in the weſt part of the pariſh, and was known as a vill or borough. Lilly is another hamlet belonging to Watringbury, though five miles to the ſouth of it, encloſed by thoſe of Yalding, Eaſt Peckham, and Tudeley. The benevolent John Cole, of Horſmonden, Eſq., now owns the greateſt part of it; Lilly having been left him by his uncle Alexander Courthorpe, Eſq. In it is only one houſe.

" There was," ſays Mr. Haſted, " till of late years a ſingular, though a very " ancient cuſtom kept up, of electing a deputy to the dumb borſholder of Chart, " as it was called, claiming liberty over fifteen houſes in the precinct of Pizein- " well, every houſeholder of which was formerly obliged to pay the keeper of " this borſholder a penny yearly. This dumb borſholder was always firſt called " at the court leet holden for the hundred of Twyford, when its keeper, who was " yearly appointed by that court, held it up to his call, with a neckcloth or hand- " kerchief put through the iron ring fixed at the top, and anſwered for it. This " borſholder of Chart, and the court leet, has been diſcontinued about ſixty years; " and

" and the borſholder, who is put in by the quarter ſeſſions for Watringbury, " claims over the whole pariſh.

" This dumb borſholder was made of wood, about three feet and half an inch " long, with an iron ring at the top, and four more by the ſides near the bottom, " where it had a ſquare iron ſpike fixed, four inches and an half long, to fix it " in the ground, or on occaſion to break open doors, &c. which was uſed to be " done, without a warrant of any juſtice, on ſuſpicion of goods having been un- " lawfully come by, and concealed in any of theſe fifteen houſes.

" It is not eaſy at this diſtance of time to aſcertain the origin of this dumb " officer. Perhaps it might have been made uſe of as a badge or enſign, by the " officer of the market here. The laſt perſon who acted as deputy to it was one " Thomas Clampard, a blackſmith, whoſe heirs have it now in their poſſeſſion." A circumſtance, ſo peculiarly whimſical, will excuſe this extract.

Edward II. granted a market to this place, now long diſcontinued; tradition gives the ſpot upon which it was held to be Chart-garden, now a wood, near Pizein-well, on the ſouth-weſt part of the pariſh, where remain foundations of walls and houſes, and near it are ſeveral draw-wells.

Ralph Fitz-Turald and Hugo de Braiboue held it of the biſhop of Bayeux in the reign of William the Conqueror; at this time it is mentioned by Domeſday-book, that Leuric de Otringaberge was poſſeſſed of ſac and ſoc for the lands he had in Aylesford; and this family of Otringberge or Watringbury continued to enjoy landed property here, but of the Meduanas, who held the fee of the king: from thence it went to the Leybornes, of Leyborne-caſtle, one of whom had a grant from Edward II. for a market to be held in this manor on Wedneſdays, a fair on the feaſt of St. John the Baptiſt, and free warren in his lands compriſed in it. Upon the failure of heirs of this family the eſtate eſcheated to the crown, where it remained until Richard II. granted it to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, near the Tower in London, which he had juſt founded for monks of the order of Ciſtertians; at the diſſolution of which this manor was given by Henry VIII. to two private perſons, from whom it has paſſed into various families until it came to the De la Hays: one of them conveyed the manor of Chart to the anceſtor of Sir W. J. Twiſden, Bart., who now holds it, and the manor of Watringbury to the Wilkinſons, who diſpoſed of it to the Styles, and it is now the property of Sir Charles Style, Bart., with that of Fowkes.

The

The ſeat of the Styles, called Watringbury-place, is a handſome, modern brick building, erected upon the ſcite of the ancient one, which had a moat, now filled up; its approach is peculiarly diſagreeable. Some fine painted glaſs of the armorial bearings of the family and their alliances was deſtroyed in the great hail-ſtorm, which we ſhall mention in a future page: the loſs was, in ſome meaſure, ſupplied from Langley, in Beckenham; preſented by the family who now enjoy that ſeat, once belonging to the other, and elder branch of the Styles. There are ſome good family portraits in Watringbury-place. The Styles are originally of Ipſwich, in Suffolk: their great anceſtor was a confidential miniſter to Henry VII., who employed him in ſeveral embaſſies, particularly to Naples. The portrait of this venerable perſon is ſtill remaining, on board. His deſcendants were afterwards engaged in commerce, and were amongſt the moſt conſiderable merchants in London, and their munificence to that city was very conſpicuous.

Weſtbury manor was once the property of Peter Fitz Robert, who held it of Simon Fitz Adam, as the twentieth part of one knight's fee. Afterwards it came to a family who called themſelves by its name, which becoming extinct without iſſue, left it to a female relation, after which it came by ſale to the Brownes, who in queen Elizabeth's reign ſold it to an anceſtor of Sir W. J. Twiſden, Bart.

Canons-court is another manor borrowing its name from the prior and canons of Leeds, who long poſſeſſed it, by the gift of Simon Fitz Adam, and the confirmation of Bartholomew his ſon. At the diſſolution of the monaſtery of Leeds, it was granted to the new-erected dean and chapter of Rocheſter; Sir Charles Style, Bart., is the preſent leſſee under them. A court ſtill continues to be held for this manor.

Pelicans was long the ſeat of a family of the name of Codd, who were gentlemen; the laſt of them, James Codd, Eſq., died in 1708, whilſt ſheriff of this county: as he had no child, and left no will, his real eſtates were divided amongſt ſeveral perſons who claimed affinity to him. Pelicans went to Thomas Kirby, gentleman, as heir: at his death it came into the poſſeſſion of a perſon of that name, who diſpoſed of it to Mr. Brattle of this pariſh: his ſon is the preſent owner. The Rev. —— Gammon now reſides in it.

Wardens was the ſeat of the Woods for a number of years, who, in the latter end of Charles II.'s reign, conveyed it to the Rev. William Burleſton, rector of Warehorne, whoſe deſcendant diſpoſed of it to Thomas Whitacre, of Trotteſcliffe,

cliffe, gentleman: he left it to his ſecond ſon John Whitacre, of Barming, Eſq.; upon whoſe death without iſſue, it came, by entail, to his nephew, Thomas Whitacre, of Trotteſcliffe, Eſq., and he now owns, and lately reſided in it.

This pariſh has been peculiarly unfortunate in having the plague ſeveral times in the beginning of the laſt century; for in each of the years from 1601 to 1614 incluſive, many died of it, which reduced the population very much; it was worſt in the year 1607, and fell chiefly upon particular families, ſome of whom loſt four, and one, the Hoſmers, five perſons by this dreadful malady. Several who died of it were buried in orchards or fields near their houſes; a practice probably cuſtomary in ſuch times of fatality, when contact was ſo dangerous: this may account for finding human bones near dwellings, and make us ceaſe to ſuſpect violence.

Watringbury is not accounted unhealthy, though it was ſo unfortunate during theſe years, and two inſtances of longevity will ſerve to evince it:—Thomas Boothe was buried here March 24, 1562, whoſe age was 112 years; conſequently he muſt have lived in the reigns of nine ſovereigns—Henry VI., Edward IV., Richard III., Henry VII., Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth: and Henry Fiveaſh, aged 104 years, was buried July 24, 1677; he lived in the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., Charles I., during the Commonwealth, the protectorates of Oliver and Richard, and the reign of Charles II., and being eleven years old at the death of Boothe, he might have remembered him. To theſe two inſtances we might add a third, of a perſon who lately died, wanting but one year of an hundred.

This pariſh is within the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt, ſtands at the weſt end of the village; it is an ancient ſtructure without any beauty, but very neat within. Much money was ſpent upon it in the year 1745, and again very lately. The fine painted glaſs which the great hail-ſtorm left has lately been very injudiciouſly taken away. The portraits of Edward III. and Philippa his queen, and the hiſtory of the decollation of St. John the Baptiſt, were particularly admired. There are ſome very good monuments of the baronet Style family; they have with great care erected the ſculptured marble to the memory of their departed relations, with an attention that does them great credit, and is a duty too much neglected by the wealthy. In the church-yard is an elegant one placed over Sir Oliver Style, who died in 1702, with a long Latin epitaph

epitaph, commemorative of this ſingular circumſtance, that whilſt at Smyrna, the room he was in was ſwallowed up by an earthquake; the cataſtrophe happened whilſt at dinner with a ſet of friends, all of whom were ingulphed alive, amongſt them the object of his tendereſt regard. He was then a merchant, but by the death of his elder brethren he ſucceeded to the eſtate and title, which he retained but a few months: he never married.

The church of Rocheſter has the great tithes, and the patronage of this vicarage, which is a diſcharged living of the clear yearly value of 48*l.*; it has been twice augmented by queen Anne's bounty. The Rev. Robert Style, A. M. rector of Mereworth, is now the incumbent; he has greatly improved the vicarage-houſe, which the Rev. George Charlton, one of his predeceſſors, nearly rebuilt. The garden is laid out with great taſte. The Rev. William Forſter, D. D. has taken a leaſe of, and now reſides in it.

NETTLESTED.

THE pariſh of Nettleſted lies on the ſouth ſide of Watringbury; its name is written Nedeſted in Domeſday-book. The Medway waſhes the left ſide; and the road branching from that of Maidſtone to Tunbridge, goes through this pariſh, which is long and narrow, occupying the riſing hill, or winding along the valley. It is rich in paſture. The hops in this diſtrict are not ſo abundant, but are ſupplied, in ſome meaſure, by the fineneſs of the corn, which covers the higher parts of it. Nettleſted is more pleaſing to the contemplative traveller, than to the gay and lively one; it is emboſomed in ſpreading oaks and lofty elms, to which the habitation of man has within a century given place: there are now only three or four farm-houſes, and not many more cottages.

Before the Norman conqueſt Godric held this place of Edward the Confeſſor; after that national misfortune it became a part of the rich poſſeſſions of Odo biſhop of Bayeux, under whom were Haimo and Adam, as alſo Rayner or Rannulf de Columbels, who had ſome property here, which in king Edward's reign had been the eſtate of Alnod Cilt, who had held it of that monarch.

At the diſgrace of Odo the manors of Nettleſted, Hylth, and Pimpe, fell to the illuſtrious family of Clare earls of Glouceſter, under whom the Pimpes held them; they made Nettleſted their chief reſidence, and from thence it was alſo

denominated Pimpe's-court; they had two other ſeats, one in Eaſt Farleigh, the other at Allhallows, in the hundred of Hoo; that in Eaſt Farleigh alſo was called Pimpe's-court.

The Pimpes remained here in great credit for many generations, often employed in the firſt offices of the county. Reginald and John Pimpes, Eſquires, were engaged in the ſcheme of the duke of Buckingham, under whom we apprehend they held, to diſplace Richard III. in favour of Henry earl of Richmond; for which they were deprived of their eſtates; but fortunately eſcaping with their lives, and ſurviving that ſanguinary uſurper, they obtained their lands again from the prince in whoſe cauſe they had loſt them. Reginald dying without iſſue male, Ann his daughter and heir took this eſtate to Sir John Scott, of Scott's-hall, by virtue of an act of parliament; but from ſome cauſe not aſſigned, John Pimpe, Eſq., his relation, obtained, and died poſſeſſed of them in 1495, with other eſtates in this neighbourhood; all of which he held under the dutcheſs of Buckingham. Winifred, his ſole daughter and heir, married to Sir John Rainsford, who left her a widow and lunatic; at her death without iſſue, in the 18th year of queen Elizabeth's reign, they came again into the family of Scott, Sir Thomas Scott, of Scott's-hall, obtaining them as her heir.

We ſeize this opportunity of giving the life of one, whoſe excellent character deſerves peculiar attention: if Britain had many ſuch, ſhe might bid defiance to adepts in philoſophy, and to all the illuminés that diſgrace humanity, and ſhock our nature.

Sir Thomas Scott's immediate progenitors were Sir Raynold, Sir John, Sir William, and Sir John Scotts, knights. His mother was a daughter of Sir William Kempe: his deſcent therefore was extremely good, though not noble. He came to his eſtate incumbered with a debt of two thouſand marks; but by attention to all his concerns, and appropriating every thing to its proper uſe, he was enabled to live with the greateſt reſpectability, and perform the moſt important ſervices to the queen his ſovereign. He was made deputy lieutenant, and often a knight of the ſhire. In the county and in parliament he was ever attentive to his duty. As a magiſtrate he was wiſe, juſt, and indefatigable; he was "a father of Romney "marſh;" the haven of Dover was contrived by him, and executed under his eye; nothing could exceed his aſſiduity in having it brought to perfection. His ſkill in whatever related to war was ſo great, eſpecially horſemanſhip, that he was fixed upon to govern the camp of Narbonne, where he acquired great commendation.

tion. He was ſo active in the public ſervice, that when the Spaniſh armada threatened our coaſts, and the privy-council ſent to him to raiſe what forces he could collect, he ſent four thouſand armed men, who reached Dover the next day. His hoſpitality was as extraordinary: he kept houſe at Scott's-hall thirty-eight years without intermiſſion; he generally had a hundred perſons in his houſe; but the reſort of thoſe who came from affection, duty, or buſineſs, was incredible. His Chriſtmas's were beyond belief ſplendid; and yet notwithſtanding his expenſes at home, and ſtill more thoſe on behalf of the ſtate, in the latter of which he was ever laviſh, he increaſed his ſtock, his "ſtuff," his plate, was alſo a great builder, and at his death he did not owe five pounds. As he had no ambition or vain glory, the ſycophant and flatterer never intruded themſelves, where they were ſure to meet reproof and contempt. He was religious without any pretence to extraordinary piety, for which reaſon he neither loved, nor was commended by the puritans. He could write well, as his eſſay upon the management of horſes evinces: he ſaid little, but when called upon he was eloquent as well as wiſe; and ſuch was his hatred to litigation, that he never had any law-ſuit. Poſſeſſing ſuch an exalted, and at the ſame time ſo amiable a character, it is no wonder that he had not a known enemy in England. As a teſtimony of the public eſteem, the people of Aſhford requeſted permiſſion to bury him at their own expenſe, conditionally, that they might be permitted to retain his reſpected remains amongſt them; but that being declined, he was interred in Braborne-church amongſt his anceſtors. He married thrice; his wives were of the families of Baker, Heyman, and Beere; he had no iſſue by the two laſt: by the firſt, who was ſiſter to lady Buckhurſt, he had ſeventeen children. His widow reſided at Dartford, where ſhe was born, and with the ſame hoſpitality ſhe had ſeen at Scott's-hall. His eldeſt ſon inherited that ſeat; his ſecond ſon, Sir John Scott, knighted in the field, in his life-time, poſſeſſed Pimpe's-court, in Nettleſted; his third ſon was ſlain in his ſovereign's ſervice: all his other children were virtuous. One of his daughters married a knight of great reputation, and the others "matched to gentlemen of very good worſhip and credit." Such was Sir Thomas Scott, who died December 30, 1594, aged fifty-nine years: nor can any one be ſurpriſed to learn that he was "as much miſſed and moaned as any "that died in Kent theſe hundred years." His juſtly acquired reputation was the reward of his fidelity to God, his ſovereign, and his country. He was enabled to ſupport his munificence in private life from ſuperintending his affairs, and having

no waſte made in his houſe. It was remarked, that "at his table he would have "neither want nor ſuperfluity."—May God raiſe up ſuch characters amongſt us to ſtem that inundation of impiety, diſloyalty, and turbulence which threatens us with ruin; that debauchery, idleneſs, and extravagance, which render us at once ridiculous and contemptible.

Sir John Scott, ſecond ſon of Sir Thomas, ſettled at this place, which he is ſuppoſed greatly to have improved; however, the additions appear to be chiefly made by his father, becauſe he was "a great builder," and on a ſtone portal in the weſt front is the date 1587. This ancient reſidence was a large ſtone edifice, with fine Gothic windows; the grand entrance to it from the river is now, or lately was, ſtanding; its gardens and fiſh-ponds remain. The ſmall ruin of this once pleaſing manſion ſerves for a cottager's dwelling, and as an hoaſt for drying hops: ſuch are the viciſſitudes of places, as well as of families. There is a neat modern farm-houſe, in which the occupier of the manerial farm lives: it is built between the old ſeat and the church.

This knight had two wives, whoſe monuments are in the church; but leaving no iſſue by either of them, this eſtate came to his brother Edward Scott, of Scott's-hall, Eſq., whoſe deſcendants diſpoſed of the manors of Nettleſted, Hilthe, and Pimpe, with the manſion and advowſon of the church, by virtue of an act of parliament, to Sir Philip Boteler, of Teſton, Bart., whoſe ſon Sir Philip deviſing one moiety of his eſtates to Mrs. Bouverie, and the other to Elizabeth viſcounteſs dowager Folkſtone, and William earl of Radnor, the whole of the property in Nettleſted fell to Mrs. Bouverie in the diviſion.

Lomewood or Layſers, alſo heretofore called Bromes, is a manor anciently poſſeſſed by the Clares earls of Glouceſter, one of whom gave it to the priory of black canons, in Tunbridge. Cardinal Wolſey obtained it to endow his new-erected colleges; but upon his diſgrace, Henry VIII. granted it, by the name of Lomewood alias Le Bromys, to Sir Edward Nevil, third ſon of George lord Abergavenny, who gave it to George Roydon, Eſq., partly in conſideration of a ſum of money, and partly as a marriage portion with Catharine his daughter: in this conveyance it is called cardinal's lands of Bromes, in Lomewood. The iſſue of this marriage was five daughters and coheirs; Elizabeth, the ſecond of whom, took this manor to the anceſtor of Sir W. J. Twiſden, Bart.

This pariſh is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Malling. Its church

is dedicated to St. Mary, and being upon the hill that fronts one part of the valley, makes a very pleaſing object. It is an elegant, ſmall, Gothic building, but unfortunately its ſpire is low; within it is finely adorned with painted glaſs, and though much of it was broken by the great hail-ſtorm, yet in what remains beſides the arms of the Pimpes and their alliances, are many curious compartments upon other ſubjects, religious or hiſtorical: ſome of theſe are very finely executed. The ſun or ſtar, and the open fetter-lock, two of Edward IV.'s favourite badges or cognizances, frequently appear, which aſcertain the time when they were put there, and prove that the Pimpes were Yorkiſts, though they united to depoſe Richard III.; but his crimes made him juſtly odious to all, and the friends of the white roſe ſuppoſed that by raiſing the daughter of their favourite ſovereign Edward IV. to the crown jointly with Henry earl of Richmond, they were not deſerting that intereſt, little ſuſpecting that Henry would affect the conqueror, or plead any hereditable right. The church and chancel have, within the laſt year or two, been repaired and beautified at the expenſe of the rector and his pariſhioners, in a manner that does them the greateſt credit. The rectory in the king's books is valued at 12*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*; in which ſum is included the chapelry of Barmingjett, to which the rector of Nettleſted is inſtituted, though the tithes are not paid to him. The patronage has ever been an appendant upon the manor. The preſent incumbent is the Rev. James Kennedy, alſo vicar of Teſton. The parſonage-houſe, long deſerted, is in part ruinous, though much improved by Mr. Kennedy; the out-buildings are very large, and indeed cumbrous: the glebe is forty acres, lying within a ring fence; it is finely ſituated for cultivation. Nettleſted is alſo one of thoſe pariſhes which anciently was obliged to contribute towards the fifth arch of Rocheſter bridge.

TESTON.

THE pariſh of Teſton is eaſt of Watringbury, to which it adjoins; Domeſday-book calls it Teſtan; the Textus Roffenſis, Terſtana: it is now invariably called Teeſon. It is a borough, with a court leet belonging to it, and elects a borſholder, being exempt from the juriſdiction of the court leet of Twyford hundred; yet here may be choſen a conſtable for that hundred.

The pariſh is very ſmall, and gently riſes from the banks of the Medway, the ſeat of Mrs. Bouverie lying nearly half way up; it is in the higheſt ſtate of cultivation,

vation, and both by nature and art is the moſt beautiful ſpot in the county for its ſize. The great road from Maidſtone to Tunbridge lies through it, and the roads to Oſham and Town Malling lead from it to the right, and another to Cocks-heath, Yalding, and the Weald, goes to the left. There is a fine bridge over the Medway, which, though of ſeven arches, is often overflowed; but the wonder ceaſes when we learn that the Medway ſometimes riſes eighteen feet above its uſual height in twenty-four hours, and will fall as ſuddenly.

By Domeſday-book we learn, that a Saxon named Edward held Teſton under the Confeſſor, and Adeold under Odo: Robert farmed it at that time as tenant to Adeold. The Crevequers obtained it afterwards from the Conqueror, upon the biſhop of Bayeux's deprivation; they held it *in capite*, as a member of the manor of Chatham, which was held of the ſovereign *in capite*, by barony: the Crevequers joining the rebel barons, it came by attainture to the crown, where it remained until Eleanor, the queen of Edward I., received it from her royal conſort: ſhe exchanged it with the priory of Chriſt-church, in Canterbury, for the port of Sandwich; Edward confirmed the grant, and king Edward his ſon gave the prior free warren. The poſſeſſion remained in that religious houſe until its diſſolution by Henry VIII.

That monarch gave Teſton to Sir Thomas Wyat to hold *in capite:* his ſon Sir Thomas loſt it and his life for his rebellion againſt queen Mary, who gave it to her attorney-general, Sir John Baker, whoſe deſcendants ſold it, during the Uſurpation, to Mr. Jaſper Cleyton, of London; he, in the reign of Charles II., diſpoſed of it to Sir Oliver Boteler, of Barham-court, in this pariſh, Bart. In the diviſion of the eſtates of his grandſon Sir Philip Boteler, this fell to the ſhare of Mrs. Bouverie, who now reſides here, diffuſing happineſs to all around by her very extenſive liberality, and whoſe private and unknown charities far exceed, it is believed, thoſe which cannot be concealed.

It would be inexcuſable to paſs over this moſt delightful ſeat without being more particular. It had formerly the name of Berham or Barham-court, from its having long been the reſidence of a family of that name, the heireſs of which carried it to the Botelers in the reign of James I., when they came hither from Sharnbrooke, in the county of Bedford. It was here that the rebels in Charles I.'s reign wreaked their vengeance upon that virtuous character Sir William Boteler, by plundering his houſe and deſtroying his property, though they had for his ſuppoſed crime

crime made him give 20,000*l.* bail, when they releaſed him from the Fleet priſon:—the reader will feel a ſuitable indignation when he learns that the whole of Sir William's "delinquency" was having, in 1642, joined with many of the neighbouring gentry to petition the houſe of commons to liſten to a peace with their ſovereign, which was delivered by captain Richard Lovelace. Dr. Bruno Ryves has given the whole of this ſhocking tale, which was cloſed by this loyal baronet's taking up arms in behalf of his ſovereign, and dying at the ſkirmiſh of Cropredy-bridge, in 1644, diſplaying as much courage there as he had firmneſs in the ſenate. His deſcendants conſtantly reſided here, and the laſt Sir Philip Boteler expended great ſums in improving the ſeat, the name of which he changed from Barham-court to that of Teſton-houſe, which it ſtill retains: he alſo procured leave to take the turnpike-road lower down, ſo as to leave a lawn from the houſe. He died here in the year 1772, very deſervedly eſteemed and lamented. Mrs. Bouverie has likewiſe much improved and enlarged this her favourite ſeat, and laid out the grounds with uncommon taſte. The houſe is a large ſtuccoed edifice; an elegant plainneſs both without and within is conſpicuouſly viſible: the gardens are numerous and extenſive: the plantations around it in every direction are equally judicious, and all unite profit with beauty. The farm, as well as the park, under the ſuperintendance of Sir Charles Middleton, Bart., the friend of Mrs. Bouverie, are ſuch as exceed any thing to be ſeen not only in this, but in any other part of the kingdom. It ought to be the model for every gentleman who has a plantation farm. A greater contraſt cannot be, than theſe and the adjoining lands.

Teſton is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, was enlarged by the laſt Sir Philip Boteler, before which it was the ſmalleſt parochial one in England. The body of the old edifice looks like a ſecond chancel; with this addition, it is but a very ſmall room, and ſcarce large enough to contain the inhabitants, ſo greatly is population increaſed under two ſuch benevolent owners of the eſtate, as the late and preſent poſſeſſor. It is ſingular, that though ſo many of the Botelers are buried within the church, there is not ſo much as one ſepulchral inſcription to their memories, nor indeed to that of any other. We mention this, becauſe Mr. Haſted, though ſo laborious a writer, has been miſled in this inſtance.

The Crevequer family gave the great tithes of this pariſh to the priory of Leeds in the year 1119, with ſixteen acres of land; but in Stephen's reign the prior and

canons

canons were inveſted with the parſonage, and the latter were afterwards canonically inducted to it: the priory therefore endowed the vicarage with the great tithes, reſerving only a penſion of twenty ſhillings; which penſion, at the diſſolution of that religious houſe, coming into the royal hands, Henry VIII. gave it to his newly-erected dean and chapter of Rocheſter, who ſtill receive it. The crown however retained the parſonage and advowſon of the vicarage, until Charles I. granted them to Sir William Boteler, and they have ever ſince gone with the manor. This preferment is a diſcharged living, and is valued in the king's books at 47*l.* It being a vicarage endowed, the vicar receives the great as well as the ſmall tithes. The preſent vicar is the Rev. James Kennedy, alſo rector of Nettleſted, as have been the four preceding incumbents, who have all reſided at Teſton; the laſt was that worthy benevolent man, the Rev. James Ramſey, at whoſe houſe died the pious Mr. La Trobe.

WEST FARLEIGH.

WE now croſs the Medway to the pleaſant pariſh of Weſt Farleigh; called Forlega in Domeſday-book, and Fearnlega in the Textus Roffenſis; we think its name is derived from fare, a paſſage, and lega, place.

The borough of Weſt Farleigh chooſe a borſholder at their own court leet, and owe no ſervice to that of the hundred, yet a conſtable may be elected from that hundred out of this borough. One part of the pariſh is holden of Newington manor, near Sittingborne, in free ſocage tenure, but at different yearly rents.

There are few diſtricts more pleaſingly ſituated than this of Weſt Farleigh: it riſes on the ſouth ſide gradually from the Medway; the houſes prettily detached, with a verdant ſweep down to the river, communicating with the oppoſite bank by three bridges, St. Helens, Barnjett, and Teſton. It is rich in plantations of every kind, and has for ſeveral centuries been the reſidence of gentry.

The manor of Weſt Farleigh underwent the ſame fate as that of Teſton, until the Baker family diſpoſed of it to Mr. Robert Newton, of London, grocer, who alienated it to Auguſtine Hodges, gent.; he diſpoſed of it in the reign of Charles II. to John Amhurſt, of Eaſt Farleigh lodge, Eſq., who deviſed it to his brother, Nicholas Amhurſt, of Weſt Barming, gent.; whence it came to Stephen Amhurſt, gent., who built here a brick houſe for his own reſidence,

near

near the lodge, which, with the eſtate, he left to a younger ſon, Stephen Amhurſt, gent., who now owns it.

Smith's-hall is an ancient ſeat, long poſſeſſed by the De Brewers, ſo called from Brewer's-place, in Mereworth, from whence they came: branches of them were ſettled at Boxley, Ditton, and Malling. The laſt poſſeſſor of this name at Smith's-hall, was John Brewer, Eſq., who, dying in 1724, left this ſeat and eſtate to Jane, his only child: ſhe having no iſſue by either of her huſbands, John Carney, Eſq., or John Shrimpton, Eſq., deviſed them to her relation, the Rev. John Davis, D. D. rector of Hamſey, in Suſſex, whoſe ſon, Sir John Davis, Knt., ſold this eſtate, in 1774, to William-Philip Perrin, Eſq. The ſeat is red brick, too long and low to be handſome; but there is an intention of altering, or rebuilding it. Here are ſome portraits of the Brewer family ſtipulated to be left hanging in the principal rooms; a vanity that neither the privacy of that family, which never gave any public characters, nor the execution of the paintings, could juſtify.

Toteſham-hall, generally called Tutſham, gave name to the De Toteſhams, who owned this ſeat and manor, until in the reign of Henry VIII. Anthony Toteſham, Eſq., diſpoſed of this eſtate, with Henhurſt, to Thomas Chapman, gent., one of the grooms of that monarch's chamber. It went by purchaſe to the Colepeper family, who diſpoſed of it ſoon after to John Laurence, Eſq., captain of Tilbury fort. From this family it went by ſale to Auguſtine Skynner, Eſq., whoſe ſon Auguſtine Skynner, Eſq., was one of the commiſſioners appointed to ſit in that nefarious tribunal called the high court of juſtice, erected to try their ſovereign Charles I.; Mr. Skynner however had virtue ſufficient to decline that infamous buſineſs. We find by Mr. Noble's Lives of the Regicides, &c. that this gentleman ſurvived the Reſtoration, and died in the Fleet priſon. His misfortunes were chiefly owing to his having, with borrowed money, purchaſed the manor of Trotiſcliffe, and ſome other epiſcopal eſtates belonging to the ſee of Rocheſter, which he loſt at the reſtoration of Charles II. After his death in 1672 his heirs ſold Toteſham-hall to the Goulſtons, who made it their reſidence; one of them ſold it to Sir Philip Boteler, Bart., at the diviſion of whoſe eſtates this was allotted to Mrs. Bouverie; and the ſeat, after having been a lodging-houſe, was at length taken down, to the irreparable loſs of the neighbouring ſcenery: it was, from its fine ſituation upon the banks of the Medway, the great plenty of water burſting forth in many parts, with the rapid Ewell ſtream, a ſpot which was every way appropriated for

the reſidence of a gentleman who could direct its various beauties to form a complete whole; but now an oil-mill has juſt been erected upon a beautiful part of this eſtate of Toteſham.

This pariſh is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Malling. Its church, dedicated to All Saints, is a ſmall edifice: the foundation of an older ſtructure is viſible, when graves are made at the weſt end, ſo that the preſent church is either not ſo large, or is built more to the eaſt than the original one; it is very neat within, and adorned with elegant marble monuments: there are ſome beautiful yew trees in the cemetery. The rectory was given to Leeds priory by Robert de Crevequer, and at the diſſolution of the monaſtic inſtitutions to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter, which preſent to the vicarage: it is valued in the king's books at *6l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* The Rev. Thomas-Weeks Dalby, A. M., alſo vicar of Chippenham, in Wiltſhire, and chaplain to the biſhop of Exeter, is the preſent incumbent. He has greatly improved the vicarage-houſe and lands: it is a very charming ſpot; from the garden is ſeen Mereworth-caſtle and ſpire, the church of Watringbury, the village of Teſton, with the church; and Mrs. Bouverie's grand manſion lies exactly oppoſite to it, producing a ſcenery ſeldom equalled.

The cyclamen Europæum, ſowbread, grows wild in the woods of Weſt Farleigh, though ſome of our greateſt naturaliſts thought it was not to be found in Britain: the ariſtolochia clematalis, climbing birthwort, is alſo ſeen in the woods between here and Maidſtone.

HUNTON.

TO the ſouth of the laſt pariſh lies Hunton, anciently Huntington, a ſmall part of which being the old demeſne of Aylesford is accounted in the hundred of Larkfield, and another ſmall part in that of Maidſtone; the borough of Hunton claims the remainder, which is veſted with the ſame powers relative to its court leet, as that of the laſt pariſh. This is within the Weald; the ſcenery is fine, but too crowded with timber in the hedge-rows to be ſo advantageous to the farmer as thoſe pariſhes laſt mentioned. The plantations of hops are large, but the greateſt part is paſture and tillage. It is too wet in winter, and too much ſcorched by the ſummer's ſun to be ſo agreeable as that part of Kent which lies above the hill: the traveller experiences the badneſs of the roads in winter, and is annoyed by

by an infinity of flies from the ſpreading foliage which overhangs them in the hot months. A ſtream runs through this pariſh, ſtrengthening as it flows by the union of ſmaller ones coming from the higher grounds, which paſſing on, joins the Medway in Yalding.

Huntington, or Hunton manor, belonged anciently to the monaſtery of Chriſt-church, in Canterbury; it then went to the primates of Canterbury, who granted it to the Lenhams to hold of them by knight's ſervice. This family alſo obtained the manor of Benſtede, at the Conqueſt written Benedeſtede, and which had belonged to Odo biſhop of Bayeux, and the Crevequers, who are ſuppoſed to have afterwards taken the name of Benſtede. Theſe manors were long united in the ſame families: by a female they paſſed to the Gyffords, and by them were ſold to the Clintons, who owned them until Edward lord Clinton diſpoſed of them to Sir Thomas Wyat; he loſt them by attainture. Queen Mary gave them to Sir John Baker, her attorney-general, to hold *in capite* by knight's ſervice: his deſcendant diſpoſed of them in the reign of Charles II. to Mr. Clarke, of Boughton, who deviſed Hunton manor to Mr. Thomas Turner for life, remainder to his own brother, who purchaſing the reverſion, gave them by will to his nephew Thomas Turner, gent., who now owns and reſides in the ſeat, which is near the church. He holds a court baron for this manor.

Benſtede or Benſteddle, the name it has now acquired, was bought by the Bartholomews of Mr. Clarke, and by them left to Sir William Geary, Bart., who alſo enjoys other eſtates in Hunton: the lodge or manor-houſe is become, by length of time, a very ſmall, mean building; but the marks of its former greatneſs remain in its moat and ſome ſcattered relics of foundations, and evince that it was a ſuitable habitation for even the Clintons, one of whoſe monuments ſtill remains in the ſouth chancel.

Burſton, anciently Buſton, Buriceſtune, or Burregiceſtune, is a manor which gave name to a family, who long enjoyed it; one of them, leaſing it for a term to Mr. Head, an opulent tradeſman and alderman of London, he very much enlarged and improved it. In queen Elizabeth's reign it was diſpoſed of by the Burſtons, to the Fane family. Sir Thomas Fane the purchaſer reſided here; became lieutenant of Dover-caſtle, and dying without iſſue in 1606, deviſed this ſeat to his nephew Sir George Fane, the ſecond ſon of Sir Thomas Fane, by Mary baroneſs Le Deſpenſer, and brother of Francis earl of Weſtmorland. Colonel Thomas Fane,

his eldeſt ſon, ſucceeded him; a gentleman of great abilities, and ſtill greater integrity, having been loyal to his prince, and faithful to his country, in the worſt of times, vigorouſly aſſerting the cauſe of religion and the laws; thrice unanimouſly returned a member of parliament for Maidſtone, againſt the reſtleſs deſigns of popery and arbitrary power, charitable to his poor neighbours, and no leſs bountiful and liberal to his ſervants, a remarkable inſtance of which he gave at his death: this valuable man died September 5, 1692, in the ſixty-ſixth year of his age, and was buried in Hunton church, where, againſt the ſouth wall, is his monument, from whence is copied what we believe to have been his true character; his buſt in white marble upon it is a good piece of ſculpture. He left this eſtate to Mildmay Fane, Eſq., the ſeventh and youngeſt ſon of Vere earl of Weſtmorland, who was not more than two years of age, being deſirous that this eſtate ſhould never go with the title of Weſtmorland; but, like all other ſuch diſtant projects, his intentions were defeated by this gentleman, who reſided at Mereworth-caſtle, dying in 1715 unmarried, when the whole of his landed property became poſſeſſed ſucceſſively by Thomas and John his brothers, earls of Weſtmorland; by the will of the latter this eſtate is now veſted in lord Le Deſpenſer.

This ſeat commands an extenſive view over the Weald; the right wing is of brick, ornamented with ſtone, the architecture of the ſixteenth century; the other parts are more modern. The park, encloſed about the time of James I., now cultivated land, with the ſeat, is occupied by Mr. Skudder, a reſpectable yeoman: the manſion is falling faſt to ruin.

Jennings is a handſome houſe built near the parſonage, by Sir Walter Roberts, of Glaſſenbury, in this county, Bart., upon the ſcite of an ancient one, which, with ſome land alſo purchaſed of a perſon of the name of Snatt, he left in 1745 to his two daughters, his coheirs, one of whom dying in France, young and unmarried, the other became poſſeſſed of this ſeat, which procured her the ſplendid miſery of being wife to George duke of St. Alban's, ſo well remembered for his vices and weakneſs; he gained her affections whilſt on a viſit at Sir Philip Boteler's, at Teſton-houſe, by flattering her that ſhe ſhould have the moſt ſuperb equipage of any lady in England; forgetting the promiſe ſhe had made to Sir Philip and lady Boteler not to liſten to his addreſſes, they having humanely cautioned her againſt his attack by ſhowing the profligacy of his character. Miſs Roberts became a dutcheſs, and the moſt unhappy of women—ſhe ſoon gave place to the loweſt female in her houſe.

Some

Some little time before her death, a gentleman hearing her grace mention her ſiſter, obſerved that her dying young was a fortunate event; ſhe replied, "By no means, "Sir: if ſhe had lived I ſhould not have been an object to gratify avarice, nor a dupe "to grandeur."—She choſe Jennings for the place of her retirement, and here her ſorrows were cloſed by death in 1778, without having been a mother. Happily part of her property was at her own diſpoſal; much of it ſhe deviſed to a gentleman of her own name, diſtantly related to her, who reſided in Ireland; Jennings ſhe left to her friend Miſs Davies, who, after the duke's death in great diſtreſs upon the continent, diſpoſed of it to the lady dowager Twiſden, who reſides here, diſpenſing her very ample fortune in acts of benevolence.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary; it is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, a peculiar of the metropolitan's, and conſequently in the deanry of Shoreham. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 16*l.* 13*s.* 1½*d.*: the patron is the primate of Canterbury; but the preſent rector, the Right Hon. and Rev. lord George Murray, third ſon of his grace John late duke of Athol, was preſented by the crown upon the promotion of the former incumbent, the Right Rev. Dr. Beilby Porteus, biſhop of Cheſter, to the ſee of London; both of whom have greatly improved the rectorial reſidence. The above pious and learned prelate ſpent his ſummers at Hunton, diffuſing good to all who wanted his foſtering care, and countenancing the neighbouring clergy, whom he entertained with that urbanity, gentleneſs, and condeſcenſion that ſo conſpicuouſly mark his character. It is ſingular that there are now living two clergymen, who have been rectors of this pariſh—Dr. Fowel, who reſigned it for Biſhopſborne; and the biſhop of London. Hunton has been long famed for the peculiar reſpectability of her clergy. Amongſt theſe were the learned and unfortunate Theophilus Higgons, A. M., who ſucceeded Anthony Pawle or Paule; Mr. Higgons had been perverted to popery, but was reclaimed by Dr. Morton, then dean of Wincheſter: he was ejected by the fanatics, and died before the Reſtoration, when it was given to Mr. George Latham, ejected by the Bartholomew act.

The church is a very large, ancient building; in it are many monuments of the Clintons, Fanes, Hatleys, and others: Philipott mentions the effigies of two of the lords Clintons in one of the windows, but there are now no remains of them. In the church-yard are many tombs of the Foots, Snatts, and Beeſtons. In the church are two grave-ſtones, upon each of which is an heart inſcribed I. H. C.

We

We ſhall quit this pariſh with obſerving, that in 1683 was found, in enlarging a pond, a ſtratum of ſhells called conchites, though ſo far from any river; and on Midſummer-day 1746, happened the greateſt ſtorm of thunder and lightning, wind and rain, that had ever been known, and which was only exceeded by that which fell in the year 1763.

YALDING.

THE pariſh of Yalding lies in the Weald, and is to the north-weſt of Hunton; it was written Ealding in former times, a name ſignificant of an ancient meadow or low ground. It is chiefly in the hundred of Twyford, but the borough of Rugmerhill is part of the old demeſne of Aylesford. One part of the pariſh holds of the manor, and is in the borough of Weſt Farleigh: the other is held of the manor, and is in the borough of Hunton: each has its own borſholder, choſen at their reſpective leets, and are exempt from the juriſdiction of the hundred of Twyford, though its conſtable may be choſen out of either of theſe boroughs.

It is a long narrow diſtrict, much interſected by the different branches of the Medway, one of which is called the Twiſt. Upon two of the larger ſtreams of the river is ſituated the town of Yalding, which is a long dreary place: it has a narrow ſtone bridge over it, and there are two others alſo in the pariſh called Twyford and Brant bridges; beſides the main road paſſing from Teſton bridge through Weſt Farleigh towards the ſouthern part of the county, there are others of leſs conſequence leading to the eaſt and weſt. As the river is made navigable to this place, barges take in timber, great guns, and bullets, for Chatham and Sheerneſs docks, London, and other places, and return with ſuch different articles as there are demands for: much coke is made, and ſent from this place for drying hops.

Yalding is one of thoſe pariſhes profitable to the farmer, but not pleaſant as a reſidence: in the north parts it is rich in plantations, in arable and paſture lands, but cold and wet, and to the ſouthward becomes poor and ſterile. Though a moſt populous pariſh, yet it is allowed to be unwholeſome, and ſuffered very greatly from the plague, which broke out in the years 1590, 1603, 1604, 1608, 1609, and 1666: moſt died in 1609; it chiefly fell upon particular families, ninety-two perſons dying of it in that year. It appears that the plague was firſt brought to Yalding by children ſent from London to be nurſed, and though they muſt be ſenſible of

of the danger, it did not prevent their repeatedly ſuffering from the ſame cauſe. It was an article of profit to ſo many, that they would not diſcontinue the practice, though at the riſk of their own and their neighbours' ſafety: many of theſe unfortunate children were buried here. It is extraordinary that ſo damp and unhealthy a place ſhould have been fixed upon for the reception of them, when ſo many every way eligible were near.

The manor of Yalding was given to Richard de Tonebridge, whoſe deſcendants, the Clares, took it to Hugh de Audeley, jun., who held it of Edward II. *in capite*, and obtained a grant of a weekly market, and a yearly fair to continue three days, on the vigil of the feaſt of St. Peter and St. Paul, and the day ſubſequent to it. The fairs are now held on Whit-Monday and October 15th. Margaret his only daughter took this manor to the Staffords, on whoſe attainture, Henry VIII. gave it to Henry duke of Somerſet, who alienated it to the barons Abergavenny; after ſeveral deſcents it went to Iſaac, and he conveyed it to Freers, who ſold it to the Brewers of Smith's-hall; the heireſs of that family deviſed it to Dr. Davis, whoſe ſon, Sir John Davis, diſpoſed of it to W. P. Perrin, Eſq., and he exchanged it for ſome lands lying near his ſeat of Smith's-hall, with Mrs. Bouverie, in whom the manor now veſts, and ſhe holds a court baron for it.

Woodfolde manor is about a mile to the ſouth-eaſt of Brant bridge. It was a joint property in the reign of Edward II.; at length it ſettled in the Lodnefords, who paſſed it away to the Burtons, and they to the Fanes in Henry VIII.'s reign, and with their other eſtates in the neighbourhood, has ſettled in the perſon of lord Le Deſpenſer.

Lodingford or Bermondſey is half a mile to the eaſt of the laſt manor: the Bermondſeys, who gave it the latter name, held it under the Clares earls of Glouceſter: in the reign of Henry VIII. it was owned by the Woods, who ſold it to the Fanes; they to the Auſtens, and Mrs. Auſten deviſing the manor to Mary, the daughter of Mr. Piggott, of Cambridge, ſhe took it in marriage to the Rev. William Forſter, D. D. who holds a court manor.

Jennings-court manor is ſubordinate to that of Pippingheath; it lies in this and the pariſhes of Nettleſted and Weſt Barming. It has gone through the families of Huntingdon, Knot, and Atwood, which laſt held it partly *in capite*, and partly under the dukes of Buckingham; it has long been granted to Brazen Noſe

college, in Oxford; Sir John-Gregory Shaw, Bart., is the preſent leſſee. A court baron continues to be held for this manor.

Bokingfold manor is of very great extent, ſpreading over part of the pariſhes of Brenchley, Horſmonden, Marden, and Goudhurſt: it had a free chapel, and a park or foreſt; only one houſe belonging to it ſtands in Yalding, which is accounted the manſion or lodge, though not on the ſcite of the more ancient one. The Crevequers held it of the manor of Chatham, until it was forfeited by them for treaſon in the barons' wars, when it reſted in the crown, until granted, with its chapel, to Bartholomew de Badleſmere, at the yearly rent of 25*l.* payable in the exchequer; but there ariſing ſome demur about the right to the advowſon, which the prior of Leeds claimed by a gift from Hamo de Crevequer; it occaſioned an inſpection into the right, when the king thought his claim ſo undoubted, that, upon an exchange ſix years afterwards between him and this gentleman of ſome other eſtates, another grant and confirmation was given of this manor and chapel, to hold by ſocage. The tenure was ſingular; he was to pay a pair of clove gilliflowers, by the hand of the ſheriff; but though he obtained for theſe and other eſtates free warren, with various liberties and privileges, yet departing from his allegiance and joining the enemies of his beneficent ſovereign, like many of the conſpirators, he expiated his guilt upon the ſcaffold.

This ſeat had the honour to receive Edward II. when he left London, with an intention of viſiting France, to perform his homage for the dutchy of Aquitaine. That wiſe, faithful, and munificent prelate Hamo Noble biſhop of Rocheſter, and the king's confeſſor, ſent both wine and grapes from his vineyard at Halling for his royal maſter's table. The king whilſt here diſcovering that many perſons had illegally hunted in this foreſt or park of Bokingfold, commanded that the culprits ſhould be proſecuted.

The manor and advowſon of the chapel were ſoon after granted by this monarch to Thomas de Camvill, to hold by the ſame tenure; upon his death Edward III. confirmed them to Giles, ſon of Bartholomew de Badleſmere, whoſe four ſiſters became his coheirs; upon the diviſion of his landed property, theſe eſtates were ſeparated into two parts: the manor and fifty acres of wood went to Maud the eldeſt of the ſiſters, who was married to John de Vere earl of Oxford: and another fifty acres went to Margaret the youngeſt ſiſter, wife of John de Tibetote.

Upon the death of John earl of Oxford, it was enjoyed by his widow during the

the lifetime of Thomas earl of Oxford their ſon, and alſo during that of his grandſon, Robert earl of Oxford, created duke of Ireland, the unworthy and unfortunate favourite of his ſtill more unfortunate ſovereign Richard II.: after the violent death of this imprudent nobleman, the remainder was given to Thomas of Woodſtock duke of Glouceſter, the king's uncle, to hold *in capite*. This great prince ſoon after conveyed them to the college he had founded at Pleſhy in Eſſex, and which the maſter and prieſts obtained at the death of the counteſs dowager of Oxford, and held both the manor and advowſon until the diſſolution of the college, when Henry VIII. gave it to Sir John Gates, a gentleman of his privy chamber, who, in the reign of Edward VI., obtained an act to diſgavel his lands. This ſacrilegious plunderer of churches, and deſtroyer of monuments, fell beneath the axe for joining the ambitious Dudley duke of Northumberland, in his attempt to place lady Jane Grey upon the throne.

Queen Mary in the ſame year gave Bockingfield, with its appendages, except the advowſon of the chapel, to Suſan Tong alias Clarenceux, firſt lady of her bedchamber, widow of Thomas Tong, Eſq., Clarenceux king at arms, to hold *in capite*; ſhe, in the third year of that reign, diſpoſed of it to Thomas Colepeper, of Bedgbury, Eſq. His ſon, Alexander Colepeper, Eſq., alienated that part of this manor which was in Goudhurſt to Sharpeigh; and the other part which was in Yalding, Brenchley, Marden, and Horſmonden, to Roger Revell. The chapel remained in the crown until queen Elizabeth gave it to Richard Tilden, of Brenchley.

Revell's part of the manor was conveyed by him to Benedict Barnham, citizen and alderman of London, upon whoſe death, in 1598, it came in the diviſion of his eſtates to Bridget his youngeſt daughter, married to Sir William Soame, who ſold it, in the commencement of the reign of Charles I., to Mr. George Browne, of Buckland, in Surry, a relation of Mr. Tilden, who had obtained the chapel; he, in 1685, alienated it to his brother Ambroſe Browne, of Buckland, Eſq.; he diſpoſed of it to Mr. William Woodgate, of Chidingſtone, whoſe great grandſon, William Woodgate, of Somer-hill, in Tunbridge, Eſq., now poſſeſſes it.

The court-lodge of the manor of Yalding, with its demeſne lands, has been for a number of years ſeparated from the manor itſelf; and it is now the property of William Plumer, Eſq., who reſides in the county of Hertford, for which he is one of the repreſentatives in parliament.

Henhurſt is an eſtate that gave name to a family ſo early as the reign of Edward II., at which time Gilbert de Henhurſt held half a knight's fee in Henhurſt of the Clares earls of Glouceſter; and Richard Toteſham, Henry Gervas, and John de Sandherſt, paid reſpective aid for it in the next reign. The Toteſhams, of Toteſham-hall, in Weſt Farleigh, obtained the whole, and afterwards it followed the deſcent of that ſeat, going from them to the Chapmans, Colepepers, Laurences, Skinners, Gouldſtones, Botelers, and is now held by Mrs. Bouverie, of Teſton.

Kenwards is another eſtate which the late Sir Philip Boteler, Bart., purchaſed of Sir Thomas Twiſden, of Bradburn, Bart., and dame Ann his wife, and came, after Sir Philip's death in the ſame manner as Teſton, and the other eſtates near it, to Mrs. Bouverie.

Trendherſt-denn is a diſtrict which, though in Yalding, is within the manor of Gillingham, near Rocheſter.

Yalding is in Rocheſter dioceſe, and the deanry of Malling. Its church is a large Gothic ſtructure, conſiſting of a nave and two aiſles, a large chancel, and at the weſt end a ſquare tower. The great tithes with the advowſon belonged to the priory of Tunbridge, until its ſuppreſſion by parliament, to endow cardinal Wolſey's college at Oxford: after his fall they remained in the crown until queen Elizabeth granted them upon a leaſe, and James I. in perpetuity. It is now the property of ſeveral families, but not in equal ſhares. The rectory pays a yearly fee-farm rent of 30*l.* to the crown. It is valued in the king's books at 20*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* The rectory has one, and the vicarage another manor. The vicar is the Rev. Richard Warde: the Rev. John Warde the late incumbent, ſon of Mr. Thomas Warde, whoſe turn it was to preſent, built a very handſome commodious vicarage-houſe.

In the year 1757 was taken, in that part of the Medway which runs through this pariſh, an eel whoſe length was five feet nine inches, and eighteen in girth, weighing more than forty pounds: the Medway is remarkable for eels; they are numerous and often very large, but inferior in flavour to thoſe in many other rivers.

Hundred of Maidstone.

THIS hundred once included the town and pariſh of Maidſtone; but as they are now a ſeparate juriſdiction, they will be particularized in a future page. The pariſhes now compriſed in the hundred are Boxley, Detling, Looſe, Linton, Eaſt Farleigh,

Farleigh, Eaſt Barming and Weſt Barming, Barmingjet or Barnjett, and a part of thoſe of Hunton, Berſted, Marden, and Staplehurſt: the four laſt named are out of the diſtance preſcribed by this work. The hundred owned the primate of Canterbury for its lord in the thirteenth century; the preſent one is lord Romney.

Previous to the deſcription of the town of Maidſtone, it will be pleaſing to ſurvey the beautiful ſcenery and rich productions of that pariſh and its environs. Maidſtone ſtands in a fruitful vale: the rag-ſtone hill to the ſouth, and the barren chalk hill on the north, forming a ſtriking contraſt; the one moſt highly cultivated, the other with only ſmall detached pieces yielding any thing except a thin herbage, which even ſheep do not graze: the ſameneſs of it is broken here and there by chalk-pits and bruſh-wood.

The river Medway divides the valley; it is of unequal depth, and muddy; but at this place of a good breadth, and receives the tides: the winding courſe is charming to the traveller, who ſkirts its beautiful banks, which are conſtantly varied in their productions; rich meadows, hanging woods planted upon land, once excavated for ſtone, a few quarries ſtill open, with ſome orchards of apples or cherries, and ſometimes plantations of hops down to the water's edge: farther from Maidſtone towards Tunbridge, fine ſpreading timber, particularly the pride of Britain, oaks of the largeſt ſize, adorn the landſcape. The extremity of the banks is beautifully fringed by a vaſt variety of low ſhrubs and flowers of the livelieſt hue. The tanacetum, or garden tanſey, is in great profuſion in Maidſtone, Barming, and Teſton: the lyſamachia, or willow weed, is ſeen a little higher up in the laſt of theſe pariſhes; and the creeping periwinkle, with almoſt perpetual flowers, at the foot of the trees: the greater mullein preſents its ſingularly elegant and ſtately appearance; it generally loves a higher and drier ſituation. The bryony fantaſtically feſtoons the hanging woods, and enlivens them with its ſcarlet berries; and as the peripatetic wanders along, he is often arreſted by the bubbling ſpring or the gurgling rill that runs beneath his feet, and falls into the river. He will often ſee, and oftener hear the pheaſant, handſomeſt of our native birds—the brilliant woodpecker, the kingfiſher, whoſe painted plumage is ſtill more exquiſitely fine; the blackbird, thruſh, and nightingale warble forth "their wood-notes wild" in the utmoſt profuſion. If the traveller looks to the water, other pleaſures await him; the leaping fiſh leaving behind the mazy, circling waves; diverging from its centre, the daſhing water falling over its tumbling bays; barges ſailing or hauled along, loaded with timber,

hops, ſtone, chalk, lime, coal, coke, bricks, fine white ſand, fuller's earth, or bales of party-coloured rags; and frequently the painted boat richly bedecked without, but graced within with the richeſt treaſures of Britain, our fair country-women, often ſuch that "beggar all deſcription."

We ſhall now notice the agricultural productions of this diſtrict—and firſt in conſequence wheat, and lately cone or bearded, which we think is moſt prolific, and makes the ſweeteſt bread; fine barley; oats yield well, the Siberian is the beſt, it is a beautiful plant; beans, peas, and vetches: buck-wheat is chiefly uſed to plough in green for manure. Sometimes cabbages, and very often potatoes, are raiſed as food for cattle, but more generally turnips; and as theſe are kept exactly hoed, they are very productive, whilſt thoſe left without that management, as is the caſe uſually in the midland and northern parts of the kingdom, are not half ſo beneficial. The foreign graſſes, lucerne and ſantfoigne, are greatly uſed; clover takes well, but is frequently ploughed in after the firſt year, and forms a lay for wheat; the two former remain for years: lucerne loves a deep ſoil; it had uſed to be ſowed in drills or rows for the more commodiouſly weeding it, but now the broad-caſt is preferred: ſantfoigne will grow upon chalk, but feebly: it loves the ſtiff land upon the rock; in ſinking quarries where it grows, the roots are found eighteen feet deep: the firſt expenſe in the ſeed is the only one attending it; the increaſe after the firſt and ſecond year is very great; a few acres of theſe invaluable graſſes are ſufficient to ſupply fodder for a great ſtock of cattle. Lucerne bears a blue, and ſantfoigne a red flower, both of them beautiful; the former yields three or four crops for cutting, the latter only one in a year, but excellent grazing afterwards.

The chief produce of this charming part of England is from the plantations; and the hop, as moſt valuable, claims our earlieſt attention. It grows well upon the loam, but better upon that land which has ſtone at no great diſtance from its ſurface. The method of planting it is either by bedded ſets, or ſuch as are juſt ſeparated from the parent root; if the former, they muſt be a year old, three of them will do for each hill, of the latter five: care ſhould be taken to procure the moſt healthy, and ſuch as have at leaſt three joints: but the ſtock muſt not he hurt by taking too many ſets away from it; a hole a foot wide and one deep ſhould be made, and very fine mould put into it, in which plant the ſets, and then cover them over with the ſame earth; the plants muſt be at exact diſtances, 1000 or 1100 to an acre. A very ſmall ſtick will do the firſt year, unleſs the ſets have been bedded,

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and then two ſomewhat larger are ſufficient; the ſecond year the poles muſt be ſmall; the third year they come to perfection, and will have coſt 100*l.* rearing: they will yield, in a favourable year, from eight hundred to more than a ton weight, and ſometimes, though rarely, a ton and an half. They ſhould be manured at leaſt once in three years, and that all over; but too generally the farmer does it only cloſe to the hill: it is a good method ſometimes to well clear round the hills, and put manure or compoſt; that is beſt which is a mixture of dung and ſoil: but dung alone is uſed, as is lime alone, or with ſoil: but what greatly ſurpriſes ſtrangers, woollen rags, which are purchaſed in London, or imported from the continent; as theſe are the ſweepings of hoſpitals, the refuſe of wretchedneſs, filth, and diſeaſe—we have known fatal effects happen to thoſe who cut or chop them for uſe; they are extremely diſguſtful, as parts of amputated limbs have been found amongſt them. This kind of ſuccedaneum for dung is moſt uſeful to ſuch who have no other land than hop-grounds; we think there is not ſo much of this filthy commodity uſed as was a few years ago; the war occaſioning a difficulty, and greater expenſe in bringing it from the continent.

The hop hills require from two to five poles, and to each pole three bines; but generally three poles are uſed. They are gathered as ſoon as the ſeed begins to be brown and hard. The poor and the loweſt people in London, at that time uſually out of employment, aſſiſt in gathering them; the ſtrangers are lodged in ſheds or out-offices. After cutting the bine, the pole is pulled up by hand, or by a dog, an iron inſtrument, and leaned againſt a bin, being a ſlight wooden frame, and the hops picked from it; they are then meaſured out, taken to the kiln or hoaſt, laid upon an hair cloth until they are thoroughly dry; afterwards they are put into bags, and are then ready for ſale, when they are weighed by the exciſeman, who marks them with the weight, the planter's name, reſidence, and date of the year.

Nothing can exceed the beauty of a hop-garden when the plant is luxuriant, and near the time of gathering; the buſy ſcene is extremely pleaſing when the hoppers are in the ground: it is, however, in ſome reſpects, diſguſting to have the refuſe of London, and other places, poured in upon the country. Yet all are ſo partial to the growth of them, that from the nobleman down to the tradeſman they join the regular farmer in having hop-gardens; none, perhaps, gains leſs than the tradeſmen, for they pay dearer for every thing, and have every diſadvantage to contend with, except in point of ſelling the commodity. The great art of ma-

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naging hops and gaining by them, is in having juſt as much as the farm can reaſonably ſupport, as to manure, wood, and other requiſites; and duly conſidering the fitneſs of the ſoil, and poling them exactly according to the manure given them, elſe they will be too luxuriant and choked, or weak and unable to reach the top of the pole.

They are a conſtant and heavy expenſe; but as no two perſons can agree in what the cultivation of an acre coſts, we ſhall be ſilent on that head; generally ſpeaking, thoſe who are at the greateſt expenſe have the beſt profit: few have ſo many as fifty acres, thoſe who have only ten are thought conſiderable growers. Perhaps no commodity more varies than hops; they have been ſold ſo low as forty ſhillings, and as high as 18*l.* per hundred weight. The picking is generally as much as the duty; the poor in this county will obtain not leſs than 100,000*l.* in a great year by picking only. In this neighbourhood they have many harveſts; haying, cherrying, cutting grain, filberting, hopping, and appleing.

Hops to a proverb are in ſome years productive; but they have innumerable misfortunes to contend with:—the wire and ſword worms at their roots; a ſmall inſect of the bat kind attacks the ſhoot when firſt breaking the ground; afterwards the fly, a delicately fine creature, which comes in cold evenings in myriads, and covers all the under ſide of the leaf, and if it ſtays long leaves its young ones, which adhere cloſe to the plant, are unwinged, and flat; theſe again get to a much larger creature, and at length obtain wings, but millions periſh to one that becomes a fly; they are aphis which ſo often and ſo variouſly change their appearance. No art has been diſcovered to kill theſe devaſtators; the greateſt friend to the planter againſt them is the lady-bird, lady-cow, or fly-golding, as it is variouſly called; the grub of which is black, or nearly ſo, and therefore called a negro, and eats up vaſt quantities of them, as do the lady-birds, when in their moſt perfect ſtate. But theſe are not the only enemies the hop has to contend with; the cold weather often ſtrikes them in the burr or bloſſom, and prevents its ever coming out, and if that is obviated, the fen, the white mould ſhrivels it up, or what is worſe, the red mould, which makes it fall to pieces: but even if all theſe dangers are eſcaped, and the planter thinks he ſhall have a fine crop, the honey-dew, which deſtroys the plant, being the eggs of an animal which the microſcope alone can diſcover, the fire-blaſt, owing to the ſolar rays collected by the denſe ſteams ariſing in the gardens, or the high winds ſetting in, will in one day blaſt all his hopes, diſperſing them

them in every direction, or tearing up the plant by the root, twiſting off or bruiſing the branches, that they fade and become uſeleſs. It muſt be acknowledged that fortunes, and very conſiderable ones, have been acquired by the growth of hops, but often they are loſt by injudicious perſons cultivating them.

Some diſtinguiſh them as the white, the grey, and the red bine; the firſt are the earlieſt, the ſecond the moſt eſtimable, the third, the coarſer kind, which are chiefly planted high upon the hill, and conſequently upon worſe land; but theſe bear the blights beſt. We have wild hops growing in our hedges in parts of the kingdom, where they have never been cultivated: but it is generally allowed that thoſe we have in our gardens were imported from Artois, in Flanders; they had been proſcribed by parliament as a pernicious weed in 1428. Ground-ivy and other ingredients were uſed by our anceſtors inſtead of hops; for beer is the liquor of the northern nations of Europe, and was the beverage of our Anglo-Saxon progenitors. The trade of a brewer was ſo conſequential in the reign of Henry VI., that in 1438 he incorporated and made the brewers a company: they had been ſo in Paris ſo early as the year 1268. The Engliſh had a great trade in beer, and much was exported. In 1492 Henry VII. gave the Flemiſh a licence to export fifty tons of ale called beer.

It appears that if the replanting of hops in England was ſo late as 1525 or 1526, as many authors ſay, they muſt have rapidly increaſed; for we find frequent mention made of them in the reign of Henry VIII., which ſhows that many muſt have been grown; probably they were wholly confined to Kent: Farnham had no hops until the beginning of the laſt century. They had found their way into Scotland as a uſeful article in brewing; for at the taking of Hadington in that kingdom, by the Engliſh in 1548, there were found 3160 pounds. Henry VIII. uſed it to bitter his beer with, but commanded that it ſhould not be injured by brimſtone or ſulphur. In Elizabeth's reign the trade in beer greatly increaſed, and conſequently the growth of hops: this ſovereign, in her thirty-ninth year, granted a licence to William Carr for nine years, to authorize and licenſe any perſon to brew beer to be exported beyond ſea. Its price was formerly more fixed; we ſhall, therefore, mention that in the reign of James I. a hundred weight of hops was ſold for 1*l.* 3*s.* Great quantities have been yearly exported to the north of Europe by the Engliſh, whilſt the Flemiſh have ſent very little, owing to their inferiority in drying them. We even exported them to France before the war, though the neighbours of thoſe people.

The northern nations, as well as Germany and Poland, grow hops, but neither in ſufficient quantities for their own uſe, nor do they make beer enough for their conſumption. As the growth of hops is become ſo beneficial, and of ſo great an importance to the kingdom, we flatter ourſelves we ſhall be excuſed having dwelt ſo much upon them.

We ſhall next ſpeak of apples and cherries, but only to obſerve, that here they are in great profuſion, and of the beſt ſorts. Cyder is made in Kent, but of a harſh, unpleaſant nature: we think the reaſon is becauſe they take little care in what they uſe, generally putting all together, even ſuch as are injured. In Herefordſhire the choiceſt fruit is ſelected, and damaged apples are always rejected. In Kent they mix ſpirits with this beverage with ſugar, which ſoftens and corrects, but is very unwholeſome. We know not when regular orchards of apples and cherries firſt were planted in this county, but we ſuſpect it was begun by Harris, the gardener of Henry VIII.; there were many in Elizabeth's reign. Pears are alſo grown, but in a ſmall degree: plums are cultivated for ſale, but chiefly nearer London. There are walnuts more by far than can be wanted for the table; the ſurplus is ſent to the London market.

But of all the fruits that Kent produces the filberts are what moſt raiſes the wonder of ſtrangers. They are generally planted with hops, and frequently the farmer raiſes in the ſame ground hops, filberts, cherries, and apple-trees: the hops are firſt diſplanted, then the filberts, next the cherry-trees, leaving the apple-trees maſters of the field; but this practice, which we think a bad one, is now ſeldom purſued; they are uſually reared only with hops, and are in full bearing in ſeven years; they are raiſed from ſuckers. Thoſe which have a white ſkin over the kernel are preferred; they are generally ſold for the London market before they attain perfection, and this for three reaſons—the gentry particularly wiſh them to furniſh out their deſſert when ſcarce, they then weigh heavier, and becauſe they are ſo liable to be ſtolen;—they are uſually watched day and night for ſome time before they are gathered. An acre takes about 400 trees; they muſt be carefully pruned every year, leaving nothing but the young wood, and about Midſummer all the upright ſhoots are broken off: they are never ſuffered to be higher than ſix feet, and all the inſide is entirely taken out to give air: they muſt be dug in the winter when they are ſuckered, and again in the ſpring. They are much cultivated about Maidſtone, but chiefly in Barming and the Peckhams.

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The filbert is not a native of England; it originally came from Pontus, whence its name of nux Pontica. The Romans imported it to Avellino, in Naples, where it ſtill flouriſhes in great abundance, and has from that circumſtance been called nux Avellina: from thence it is preſumed we have received, and now cultivate them in the ſame manner: there they grow upon the volcanic ſubſtances, here upon the ſhattery rock. In Avellino they yield a profit of 11,250*l.*, which probably ariſes chiefly from exportation; perhaps ſome come to England: it is certain filberts are imported, but it is believed principally from Gijon, a ſmall port in Spain; from whence cheſnuts are alſo procured, which articles there give maintenance to about eight hundred families.

This part of Kent is alſo very well ſupplied with ſmall woods, uſually called ſhaws; many of them are planted ones: they are no leſs beautiful, than profitable for hop-poles. The plantation grounds are often ſupplied from the hills that run through the centre of the county, or from the Weald. The poles cut from the hills are preferred, becauſe they are wiry and tough; for, growing ſlower, the wood is leſs porous, and conſequently, as more compact, will laſt the longer, and, generally ſpeaking, the pole will remain as long as it has been years in growing. Holinſhed, a Kentiſh man, ſays in his Chronicle, or Harriſon who wrote the preface, "Hops, "in time paſt, were plentiful in this land, after alſo their maintenance did ceaſe, "and now being revived, where are anie better to be found? where any greater "commoditie to be raiſed by them? onelie poles are accounted to be their greateſt "charge. But ſith men have learned of late to ſow aſhen keies, in aſh yards by "themſelves, that inconvenience in ſhort time will be redreſſed."—Beſides aſh, willow and cheſnut are alſo planted; and the gentlemen find this ſo profitable, that it is uſual, when they fall their woods, to fill them up with one or other of theſe, or lay an aſh or willow, which by having earth placed at two different parts, and the end alſo covered, will form of itſelf other ſtools or roots. The reader will, however, obſerve, that theſe three ſorts of wood are not the only ones uſed for poles; any ſtraight young ſapling will anſwer the purpoſe, though not equally well. Maple, wild cherry, oak, elm, hazel, beech, birch, and alder are uſed; an elder one is a rarity; but if it can be obtained, it will laſt for a great number of years. Plantation wood is uſually fallen every ten years, and will yield 50*l.* an acre.

It will not be proper to omit an account of the quarries which are found on each ſide of the Medway near Maidſtone, and afford a great article of commerce.

The ſtone they afford is very valuable; in the pariſh of Boughton Monchelſea it is taken up in great blocks, out of which are formed quoin-ſtones, troughs, and grave-ſtones: but in the pariſhes of Maidſtone, Eaſt Farleigh, and Barming, where the quarries chiefly are, they uſe the beſt ſtone generally for headers, with which they build walls, or pave thoſe parts of the ſtreet over which carriages and horſes go, or ſquares for foot-paths or out-offices. The other purpoſes to which it is appropriated are lime to refine ſugar, or for ſtucco work; this is called cork, is heavy, and of a fine blue colour, the grain fine, and ſmooth to the touch: it is taken and burnt near Weſtminſter-bridge; much of it, put in ſmall caſks, placed in others of ſlacked lime, is ſent to the Weſt Indies. The other large ſtone is ſold for the purpoſe of walling out the ſea on the Kent and Eſſex coaſts, or to ſhoot into the ſtirlings of London and Rocheſter bridges. The ſmalleſt is ſent to turnpike roads, or conveyed in boats to Tunbridge to mend the roads in the lower part of Kent, where they have not any materials for that purpoſe. Formerly much of the land was encloſed by walls, but ſince the river has been made navigable the farmers have taken moſt of theſe away, and alſo cleared their lands of this incumbrance.

Quarries have been long uſed in Kent; probably both ſtone and chalk were dug by the Britons. It is well known that when the preſent cathedral church of St. Paul, in London, was built, Sir Chriſtopher Wren diſcovered, at a great depth, the foundation of an edifice, ſuppoſed to be a church, which had been built by the Romans whilſt they reſided in this iſland; and upon examination that great architect found that the ſtone was Kentiſh ragge. In the year 1418 Henry V. commanded the clerk of the works of his ordnance to procure labourers for making 7000 ſtone balls for the cannons, to be of different ſizes, out of the quarries of Maidſtone, in Kent: and that quarries were worked about this town we learn from Leland, who tells us that ſtone had long been dug in Eaſt Farleigh, the next pariſh to it. Great quantities of land have been uſed for this purpoſe, and is more valuable than it was before the rock was removed: if on the plain ground where the plow went, by taking the ſtone out and levelling it a little, the crops are beſt; if planted with hops it becomes ſtill more valuable. Should the ſides of the banks be excavated, and the haſſock, or what was the bed of the ſtone, planted with aſh, the eſtate is much benefited; for the land is then greatly increaſed in value,

value, and even in dimenſion. Some of the places where quarries once were, are now very rural, ſolitary woods. Leaving the other pariſhes which compoſe this hundred, Maidſtone claims peculiar attention.

MAIDSTONE.

IT is generally allowed that Maidſtone was the Caer Meguid, Medwag, or Megwad, of the Britons; probably the Vagniacæ of the Romans, and certainly the Medweaggeſton of the Anglo-Saxons, which implied that it was Medway's town, from Medwæge, middle river, and ton, a town. In Domeſday-book it is called Meddeſtane, and now by contraction Maidſtone.

It has for ages been a borough by preſcription. It was particularly diſtinguiſhed by Edward VI., who ſpecified its rights; before his time a portreeve and twelve brethren governed it: but this ſovereign, in his third year, incorporated it anew by the ſtyle of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town of Maidſtone, in the county of Kent. Unfortunately the inhabitants declaring for Sir Thomas Wyat in his rebellion, the enfranchiſement was loſt. Queen Elizabeth, in her ſecond year, reſtored the town to its former privileges, and confirmed their preſcriptive right of returning two burgeſſes to parliament, which they had done in Edward VI.'s reign, and granted the mayor the power of acting as a juſtice of peace, freeing the townſmen from foreign ſeſſions. James I. again confirmed all theſe privileges by his letters patent.

Difficulties, however, having ariſen reſpecting the meaning of ſome of the clauſes in theſe letters patent, they were explained, confirmed, and enlarged by a third charter of incorporation, by other letters patent, in 1604, and again in 1619. Charles II. amplified theſe charters in 1682; but at the Revolution the corporation rejected this laſt, and reſorted to the others, by which they were governed until the year 1748, when being diſſolved by the judgment of ouſter againſt the acting jurats upon informations of *quo warranto*, a new one was given by George II., confirming and enlarging their privileges.

By this charter the corporation are poſſeſſed of an excluſive juriſdiction within their town and pariſh, and on the river Medway from Eaſt Farleigh bridge to a place called Hawkwood, in Barham, with cognizance of actions and replevins as far as the towns and pariſhes of Eaſt Farleigh, Barming, Looſe, Boxley, Linton,

and Otham, with the hamlets of Milhale, in Aylesford pariſh, and New Hythe, in that of Eaſt Malling. Not noticing other minuter circumſtances, it is ſufficient to obſerve that the town pays a farm rent of 3*l.* to the crown, and uſed to contribute to the fifth pier of Rocheſter bridge.

Maidſtone has a weekly market on Thurſdays; one for cattle and ſheep on the firſt Tueſday of every month; and four fairs for horſes, cattle, haberdaſhery, pedlary, &c., held on February 13th and 14th, May 12th and 13th, June 20th and 21ſt, and October 17th and 18th. The monthly markets are held by virtue of letters patent granted in 1751: the weekly ones were obtained by archbiſhop Boniface from Henry III. The reſort to theſe is great, and much buſineſs is tranſacted, in which hops form a principal part. The fairs are chiefly held in the meadow containing ſixteen acres, encircled with lofty trees, once belonging to Boxley priory; the fair for horned cattle has lately been removed to Pennenden-heath. The diſtance of this town from London is thirty-five miles, and nearly the ſame from Dover.

After paſſing a long narrow bridge, the entrance from the London road is very good. The High-ſtreet is ſpacious, and by taking down the Middle-row, would be one of the fineſt in the kingdom; oppoſite to this is Eaſt-lane, parted from the High-ſtreet by a long one running north and ſouth, the firſt called Week-ſtreet, the other Gabriel's-hill, as far as the little bridge, when it takes the name of Stone-ſtreet: on the weſt of this laſt is Knight-rider's-ſtreet.

From the High-ſtreet to the north is the meadow, in front of which is a row of houſes: a little farther towards the north is Union-ſtreet, both conſiſting chiefly of ſmall houſes; they lead to Earl-ſtreet, leading from the river to Week-ſtreet; and behind this is St. Faith's green, with its ſcattered houſes in the ſame direction. On the ſouth ſide of High-ſtreet is a ſmall paſſage from the great bridge to the Cliff: higher up on the ſame ſide is Queen-ſtreet, both leading to the church. There is lately erected a row of houſes to the eaſt of Week-ſtreet, where others are intended to be built, called Union-place. On the weſtern ſide of the bridge is the borough, conſiſting of many detached houſes.

The town from weſt to eaſt is nearly a mile, and from north to ſouth almoſt three quarters of a mile. In the High-ſtreet ſtands the market-croſs: its emblem, once on the top, has long been removed. It is an octagon building; was formerly called the Corn-croſs, now uſed as a fiſh-market. A little below is another building, erected

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in the year 1608 by an aſſeſſment upon the town; this has been rebuilt, and is at preſent the corn-market.

Still more to the weſt is the county-hall, a handſome, modern, brick building; the corporation and the juſtices of the weſtern diviſion defrayed the expenſes of erecting it, for the uſe of the county and corporation. The law cauſes are tried in the upper court; and at the aſſizes another court is formed for the trial of criminals, by encloſing ſome of the ſpaces between the arches.

Below the court-hall is the Middle-row, and a railed encloſure, where, on market days, the butchers' ſtalls are placed, and below it a new octagon building, ſtuccoed, uſed as a butter market, and to ſupply the people in this part of the town with water; the principal reſervoir is the conduit, formerly, from its vicinity to the priſon, called the gaol-conduit, built about 1624, and encloſed with free-ſtone, and lined with lead in 1645; it ſtands at the upper end of the High-ſtreet, where water of the fineſt quality is conveyed by pipes coming under the Medway from an encloſed ſpring called Rocky-hill, in the Weſt Borough: the expenſe is defrayed by the corporation. Another conduit, a lofty ſtone octagon building, inconveniently ſtanding in the middle of the High-ſtreet, was taken down in 1792.

The public gaol, for the uſe of the weſtern diviſion of Kent, is a modern ſtone building in Eaſt-lane, which, from its firſt erection, has been greatly enlarged and ſtrengthened, and is now a ſuitable priſon, under excellent regulations. The gaol was in the centre of the town until 1736, when the inhabitants petitioned to have it removed, as inconvenient from its ſituation, and having no room for the reception of debtors; this was ſo reaſonable a requeſt, that leave was given to take it down, and erect another in Eaſt-lane, large enough to contain both criminals and debtors. There is an inferior priſon, ſignificantly called the Brambles, which joins the court-hall.

The poor's-houſe, a brick building near the church, with an inſcription on marble in the front, is three ſtories high, ninety-one feet in length, and twenty-one in breadth; built in 1720 at the expenſe of 700*l.* by Thomas Bliſs, Eſq., a native of Maidſtone, and ſeveral times one of its repreſentatives in parliament. Here the poor are uſefully employed.

On St. Faith's green are alms-houſes, founded and endowed for ſix poor perſons of both ſexes, in conformity to the will of Sir Joſeph Banks, of Aylesford, Bart., a native

a native and repreſentative in parliament of this place, who died in 1697, and left 60*l.* per annum for the maintenance of this charity, and appointed that the building ſhould be kept in repair by his heirs. In the road leading to the Mote are ſix almshouſes for three men and three women, built and endowed by Mr. Edward Hunter, the firſt mayor after the new charter in 1748, who, in his lifetime, placed perſons in them rent-free, and at his death left towards their ſupport 8*l.* The nominees and truſtees are lord Romney, the perpetual curate, and the recorder of Maidſtone.

The late benevolent Mr. Brenchley, brewer, left a ſum ſufficient for four almshouſes, where each perſon receives 12*l.* yearly.

A great addition to the beauty of this town is the extenſive barracks, erected a little beyond Week-ſtreet, in the road to Rocheſter, with every accommodation for the ſoldiers. The apartments for officers, non-commiſſioned officers, and men, are ſpacious, affording room for 600 men, and 180 horſes, all kept with great neatneſs: the building is low, the materials, boards painted white, which form a hollow ſquare, having at a diſtance the appearance of an Aſiatic palace. It is to be lamented that the riding-ſchool is built in a direction to intercept the view towards the river. The greateſt regularity, order, and propriety of behaviour, has manifeſted itſelf amongſt the military reſident in the barracks.

This town is computed to contain more than 1500 houſes, and between 7 and 8000 inhabitants, a great increaſe ſince queen Elizabeth's reign, when in her eighth year there were only 294 houſes, four landing-places, five ſhips and hoys; one of thirty tons, one of thirty-two, one of forty, and one of fifty, and only twenty-two perſons occupied in merchandiſe.—The barge-owners are numerous, and ſeveral of them men of very conſiderable wealth. The trade of Maidſtone exceeds its appearance. The people live elegantly, and many of the families are opulent. The character of the inhabitants until theſe late ferments was very amiable; but that violence, however, which political conteſt had called forth, is gradually ſubſiding. At the beginning of this century, and for ſome years afterwards, many gentry reſided amongſt them; it now wholly conſiſts of profeſſional perſons and tradeſmen.

In the year 1792 the town was new paved, lighted, and many obſtructions removed; ſince that time it has rapidly improved, ſeveral handſome houſes having been built, or others new fronted; moſt of them are white, kept remarkably clean, forming altogether one of the moſt cheerful, pleaſing towns in England.

There

There are manufactories carried on for linen and packing-thread; of the former, two: of the latter, only one. The Walloons eſtabliſhed this trade, and the people now call it Dutch-work. The diſtillery of Engliſh ſpirits, or Maidſtone geneva, of very great magnitude, was eſtabliſhed by the late Mr. George Biſhop, and is now carried on by Sir William Biſhop his brother, and Mr. Biſhop their nephew; not leſs than 700 hogs are fed from it. Here are two very conſiderable beer and porter breweries, the very liberal Mr. Stacy's and Mr. Seager's: they not only ſupply the town, but the neighbourhood, and export to a great extent. At Sandling is a large brick-kiln, and another near Half-yoke. Great quantities of the fineſt white ſand are ſent from this pariſh, which is uſed in making flint and plate-glaſs.

Within the town is a corn-mill, on the little river; in the pariſh are ſeveral. From theſe and Mr. Chamber's great granary wheat and flour are ſent in large quantities to Rocheſter, Chatham, and London. The pariſh contains ſeveral paper mills, an oil and a fulling-mill. The product of theſe, and many others in the adjoining ones, are ſent to London by water, which greatly increaſes the carrying or barge trade.

Timber is brought to Maidſtone from the Weald of Kent and its vicinity, chiefly by water, and ſent from thence to Chatham dock, and other places more diſtant. Large hoys, of fifty tons burden, are conſtantly going to, and returning from London, exchanging for other goods, at that great mart, the various articles of produce already mentioned. Warehouſes and ſtowage-rooms are provided for hops, and large wharfs for Engliſh and foreign timber, giving this place and its environs a very buſy appearance. The number of barges and all kind of craft upon the Medway, in and near the town, is extremely great; and if the projected union between that river and the Thames ſhould take effect, it probably will be much augmented. Maidſtone is alſo benefited by its free grammar and boarding ſchools.

There are few occurrences that have happened in Maidſtone deſerving particular notice. The firſt is the rebellion of Sir Thomas Wyat, in the reign of queen Mary, who at the "bear ringle" in this place ſet forth his proclamation, and being the principal perſon in the pariſh, had influence enough to involve the inhabitants in his treaſon. To puniſh them, the queen took away their charter; their leader was executed in London; Sir Henry and Thomas Iſley, with Walter Mantle,

Mantle, Eſq., were put to death at Sevenoke; Brett, at Rocheſter; and Mr. Mapleſden and ſome others, at this place. Mary, lighting the fires of religious intolerance, burnt ſeveral reſpectable proteſtants, inhabitants of this town, in the King's Mead, now the Meadow. On the contrary, her wife ſiſter, queen Elizabeth, gave an aſylum to the Walloons, perſecuted and expatriated from the cruelties inflicted upon them by Alva, the ferocious, ſanguinary governor of the Low Countries, in 1568. Here they lived in credit, enriching the nation which ſuccoured them, by eſtabliſhing the thread trade: that princeſs permitted them to enjoy their own religion, and they were chiefly governed by themſelves. They had ſo mixed with the people around them before 1634, that not more than fifty families remained diſtinct; theſe were much troubled by having their conformity to the national church inſiſted upon; by anglicizing or entirely changing their names, few families deſcended from them can now be identified. In the reign of James I. the Middle-row was ſet on fire by lightning, during a great tempeſt, the account of which was taken to the mayor and brethren, then at Milhale in their barges, at their annual "fiſhing."

This place, notwithſtanding its healthy ſituation, has greatly ſuffered by the plague. In 1593 there died of it ſixty-five perſons; in 1594, one hundred and nineteen; in the following year eighty-ſeven. In 1603 it again appeared in March, and from that month to March 1604 eighty-eight perſons fell victims to it. The complaint was moſt fatal during the winter, and did not ceaſe until 1605. It broke out in 1608, but was very ſlight: in 1609 it carried off ſixty-three perſons. In the fatal 1666, when the peſtilence was great at Oſtend, and other parts of the Netherlands, it was brought into England by the ſoldiers who returned home: in 1665 multitudes fled into the country from London. Many merchants, owners of ſhips, &c., ſhut themſelves up on board their own veſſels, and were ſupplied with food from Greenwich, Woolwich, and farm-houſes on the Kentiſh bank of the river. Here they remained ſafe: it did not reach further than Deptford, and theſe perſons were often permitted to go on ſhore and obtain freſh proviſions in the towns, villages, and farm-houſes. Theſe veſſels, when the plague greatly increaſed in 1666, went fairly out to ſea, and put into ſuch harbours as they thought ſafeſt. It was perhaps ſome of the perſons who had left London in theſe dreadful times, ſecretly getting into Maidſtone, that brought this evil amongſt them. The firſt perſon dying of it was buried July 4, 1666; three hundred and forty-ſeven died in that

that year ending in March. In 1668 there were one hundred and fifty-three; it greatly abated in October; there were only two died of it in November; three in December; two in February 1668-9, and one in March, when it totally diſappeared. Maidſtone loſt by this ſevere viſitation exactly 500 perſons; and yet probably many who died of it were never regiſtered: the peſt-houſe, ſtill ſo called, is ſtanding at Tovel: ſome were buried there. Happily this evil did not ſpread, not a ſingle item being found in the ſurrounding pariſh regiſters. Until very lately a ſupplicatory ſentence remained upon a houſe near the river, as was uſual in times when this dreadful ſcourge threatened to ſweep away the affrighted inhabitants.

Maidſtone underwent an evil of another nature in 1648. The inhabitants, diſtinguiſhed for loyalty, judged it proper to make one effort to reſtore Charles I. to his loſt crown. Sir John Mayney came hither with 1000 horſe and foot of the king's friends; the people every way aſſiſted the undertaking. The republican junto feeling alarmed, ſent general Fairfax to ſuppreſs them: though he was then ſuffering much from the gout, he marched with 10,000 troops, and forced his way over Eaſt Farleigh bridge. The town, undiſmayed, reſiſted all ſolicitations to ſubmit, and made every exertion to repel an attack: 2000 men lined every ſtreet, and guarded every avenue: the loyal Sir William Brockman brought 800 men to aid them. Fairfax ſurrounded the town, and did all that ſo gallant a general could; but he found every where an obſtinate valour, and each ſtreet was diſputed with the greateſt courage, not an inch being gained without great loſs. An attack of five hours obliged them to give way to a decided ſuperiority, new troops arriving to aid the parliament general. At twelve at night theſe true ſubjects ſought retreat in the church, where they were obliged to ſurrender upon the beſt terms they could obtain. There was no action better maintained during the whole of the unhappy conteſt; and lord Clarendon acquaints us, "It was a ſharp encounter, "very bravely fought with the general's whole ſtrength; and the veteran ſoldiers "confeſſed that they had never met with the like deſperate ſervice during the war." The ſlaughter was great. Maidſtone muſt have loſt many of her townſmen, becauſe, for years after, the number of widows who married greatly exceeded the ſpinſters. The dead were buried where they fell in the neighbourhood; and if any were interred in the church-yard of this place, they are not regiſtered.

The third misfortune experienced by Maidſtone, was in common with many pariſhes in this fertile valley, by the great hail-ſtorm which happened Auguſt 19, 1763, the moſt tremendous upon record in this kingdom. The reader will be more gratified with the account, when he learns that part is taken from an intelligent perſon who made minutes of it whilſt freſh in his memory, and who was one of the ſufferers.

On Friday, Auguſt 19, 1763, a ſtorm aroſe at ſea off the Suſſex coaſt: the morning was ſtill, with ſcarcely a breeze of air, and ſo exceſſively hot, that it was ſuffocating. About ten o'clock in the forenoon a black cloud aroſe towards the weſt; ſoon after which the wind blew an hurricane; the clouds came on with amazing velocity, throwing out in their courſe dreadful flaſhes of lightning, and the thunder was almoſt one continued roar. About half paſt eleven the rain poured in torrents, and in a few minutes was intermixed with ſome detached hailſtones, which were very large, as introductory of what were to follow: the hail, wind, lightning, and thunder, ſoon came on ſo furiouſly, that all was one dreadful ſcene of horror. The boughs, branches, and leaves of trees broken and ſtript off, flying in the wind, ſtill more darkened the air; the tiles and windows rattling, and daſhing to pieces; trees torn up and falling, ſtruck all with a terror not eaſily to be expreſſed: ſome running diſtractedly about, wringing their hands, whilſt others ſtood like inanimate beings.

The ſtorm laſted about half an hour. What a ſcene enſued!—an univerſal deſolation every where preſented itſelf; ſome houſes filled with water, others, with their barns blown down, roofs and walls ſhattered, the windows quite deſtroyed, the waters roaring in torrents down the ſtreets, plowing up the ſtones in their courſe, and leaving deep chaſms; the ſurface of the earth covered with the prodigious hailſtones and water; corn, fruit, and hops deſtroyed; the fields and hop-gardens every where disfigured; trenches formed by the ruſhing water; the roots of the hops bared, the poles thrown down in all directions; heaps of ſtones and ſand driven through the hedges; boughs and branches ſcattered; the fruit-trees ſtripped of their bark. The ſmaller animals, ſuch as hares, pheaſants, and other game, lay dead in the field; and a large hog was killed by the hail upon Barming-heath. The larger quadrupeds, endowed with ſuperior inſtinct, ſaw their danger; horſes, bullocks, and ſheep, ran and ſheltered themſelves from the coming ſtorm.

In Maidſtone, on one ſide of the High-ſtreet, not only the glaſs, but the lead and frames of the windows were forced in and deſtroyed, particularly by the hail. It

was

was like fragments of ice, and of very irregular ſhapes; at Barming one piece was taken up formed like an oyſter; Sir Philip Boteler meaſured and found it nine inches round at the extremity, and even ten days after ſome hailſtones were taken up four inches and an half in circumference. One of the largeſt ſtruck the ſtile of an horizontal poſt-dial of braſs, and bent it near thirty degrees towards the eaſt. Poſts, bars, and gates had deep impreſſions from them; they were of different ſhapes; ſome flat, irregular, and very much jagged; others an aſſemblage of pieces of ice; whilſt a few were globular, with a ſmall cavity in the centre, and if they were held together they immediately froze, and were not eaſily ſeparated.

The ſtorm commenced in this county at Tunbridge-wells, whilſt the people were at prayers in the chapel, and paſſed quite acroſs to Sheerneſs, a diſtance of forty miles, its breadth not exceeding four miles: the direction of it was from ſouth-weſt by weſt, to north-eaſt by eaſt; and it was ſeverely felt in the pariſhes of Tunbridge, Speldhurſt, Penſhurſt, Tudeley, Capel, Pembury, part of Hadlow, Yalding, Hunton, Brenchley, Mereworth, Eaſt and Weſt Peckham, Watringbury, Nettleſted, Eaſt Malling, Teſton, Eaſt and Weſt Farleigh, Barming, Looſe, Maidſtone, Boxley, and Detling; after which its violence was ſpent, and only little injury was occaſioned. So great devaſtation had never been known; numbers from all parts came to witneſs the melancholy ſcene. The inhabitants of the vicinity humanely raiſed 3000*l.* in a few months, which in ſome meaſure relieved the unhappy ſufferers: but the cruel effects long remained; moſt of the hop-hills died, the filbert and apple trees ſwelled in knots where they had been bruiſed, and ſome were ſo injured, that the branches and ſhoots long after continued to die; the cherry-trees bore it the beſt, owing perhaps to the ſtrength of their outward bark.

The laſt memorable circumſtance to be noticed, is the ſudden thaw of the Medway, in January 1795, when that river roſe to an aſtoniſhing height from the melting of the preceding ſnows. The ice above Teſton coming down in large ſheets with the current, choked up the arches of that bridge, and deſtroyed Bow bridge: the furious current with its loaded ſurface carried away the wooden bridges of Barnjett and St. Helen's, at Barming; reſiſted by that of Eaſt Farleigh, until its parapet walls gave way, the whole contents floated with rapidity down the river, damaging the locks, and threatening Maidſtone bridge; but at length the loaded water, increaſed by the back river, riſing higher than the walls, the whole of the ice and water paſſed on: fortunately the froſt of the enſuing night arreſted the water in its

way, and a more gradual thaw removed it without further miſchief; thoſe who lived in the houſes near the river were compelled to uſe boats in the ſtreet, and take to their upper rooms, as their houſes were three or four feet deep in water. The fields had a very extraordinary appearance from the vaſt ſheets of ice which lay upon them, and had bent and kept down trees of conſiderable thickneſs. It was juſtly compared to the breaking up of the great froſts in North America.

Maidſtone was the eſtate of the archbiſhops of Canterbury, and in the reign of king John they had a houſe here, which Ufford, about the year 1348, began to rebuild; and Iſlip, who followed him, after the government of Bradwardine, who ſat only a few weeks, proceeded with the work, bringing materials from Wrotham, as has been mentioned; and Courtney, his ſucceſſor, carried on the deſign. Moſt of the future primates occaſionally reſiding here, Henry VI. honoured it with his preſence in the archiepiſcopate of Chichele. The palace was much improved and beautified by cardinal archbiſhop Morton; but Cranmer exchanged the building with Henry VIII. Sir Thomas Wyat received it from Edward VI.: veſting in the crown by his attainture, Elizabeth gave it to Sir John Aſtley, a family ennobled by Charles I. It remained with them until the year 1729, and then paſſed to the anceſtor of the preſent poſſeſſor, lord Romney. The manor remained in the crown until Charles I. gave it to the truſtees in fee of lady Elizabeth Finch viſcounteſs Maidſtone, ſoon after created alſo counteſs of Winchilſea, to be held in ſoccage: her deſcendant Heneage, fourth earl of Winchilſea, ſold it to the Marſham family in 1720; and it is now, with the palace, inherited by lord Romney. The manor is very extenſive, its juriſdiction including the whole hundred and manor of Maidſtone. At the annual court leet and court baron a conſtable for the hundred is choſen, and a borſholder for each of the pariſhes or boroughs of Barming, Boxley, Detling, Linton, the borough of Crockhurſt, and one jointly for the pariſhes of Eaſt Farleigh and Looſe.

The Mote, ſituated a mile from the town in a park finely wooded, has long been a place of great conſequence. It was caſtellated in the reign of Henry III. by the Leybornes, who obtained from that ſovereign a Tueſday's market, and a yearly fair for three days at the feaſt of St. Croſs. After the Leybornes the Shoffords inherited it, who aſſumed alſo the name le Mote; the de Dittons, de Burgherſh's; thence it came to the Woodviles, afterwards earls of Rivers, who likewiſe bore amongſt their other titles that of baron de la Mote. In this family it remained until ſeized by Richard III. after he had illegally and inhumanly deſtroyed Anthony earl

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of Rivers, at Pontefract; he gave the ſeat to his infamous favourite Sir Robert Brakenbury. Henry VII. reſtored it to Thomas earl of Rivers, who left it to Thomas Grey marquis of Dorſet. He paſſed the Mote to Sir Henry Wyat, of Allington-caſtle, who diſgavelled it; his grandſon, the vain Sir Thomas Wyat, loſt it and his life. Queen Mary gave it to archbiſhop cardinal Pole, for a term of years; and Elizabeth in fee to Nicholas and Dixon, of whom probably Sir William Rither, lord mayor of London, purchaſed it. Suſan his daughter and coheir took it to Sir Thomas Delmarii or Cæſar, and after his death to Thomas Philipott, Eſq., who, with the eldeſt ſon of her firſt marriage, joined in alienating it to the Tuftons, one of whom bequeathed it to a lady of the name of Wray; ſhe diſpoſed of it to the anceſtor of the Right Hon. Charles lord Romney, lord lieutenant of Kent, the preſent owner of this ſeat and manor. Perhaps few families are more deſervedly honoured and beloved than that of Marſham. The preſent nobleman is building a very ſuperb ſeat at ſome diſtance from the old one; the ſituation is very elevated, commanding a view of the circumjacent country, and is a grand object for ſeveral miles. The rooms are very ſpacious; a fine piece of water has been obtained near the houſe.

The manor of Goulds is ſomewhat ſouth of the Mote, which, with the eſtate of Shepway-court, was the property of the Vinters, one of whom endowed his chantry with them. Henry VIII. granted Goulds to Deuntley, to hold *in capite* by knight's ſervice: from him it came to the Blagnes, who diſpoſed of it to the Hendſleys or Hendleberys, which family had purchaſed Shepway-court of Sir Thomas Wyat: the whole came to the Tuftons, and from them to the Marſhams, and is now poſſeſſed by lord Romney.

Bigons or Digons, in Knight-rider-ſtreet, was long the ſeat of the Mapleſdens, a family more numerous than any in Kent; the widow of Gervaſe Mapleſden, gent., who died in 1603, ſaw ninety of her deſcendants. The Mapleſdens were for a number of years amongſt the principal inhabitants of Maidſtone. The unfortunate Mr. George Mapleſden, joining the rebel ſtandard, loſt Bigons. Queen Mary granted it to the Barhams: one of them conſiderably improved and enlarged the houſe. After many transfers it is now the property of James Hatley, of Ipſwich, in Suffolk, Eſq. The arms of Edward VI., when prince of Wales, in painted glaſs, appear in one of the windows.

Shales-court, a manor in the ſouth part of the pariſh, was once poſſeſſed by the Freming-

Freminghams, then by the Pimpes; one of them diſpoſed of it to the Wyats, who exchanged it with the crown. Edward VI. granted it to Sir Walter Hendley, ſergeant at law, whoſe daughter and coheir took it to the Wallers, and they reconveyed it to another branch of the Hendleys, who in the reign of Charles II. diſpoſed of it to Sir John Banks, Bart.: with a daughter and coheir of his it went to the earl of Aylesford's family. Its handſome manor-houſe in Stone-ſtreet was the reſidence of the late general Kingſley, and now of Thomas Pope, Eſq., ſenior jurate and juſtice of the corporation.

Chillingſtone was anciently a manor belonging to the Cobhams, afterwards the Mapleſdens, who loſt it by attainture, and was then granted to the Hendleys: it has had a variety of owners, and is now the property of William Stacy, of Canterbury, Eſq. The large ancient manſion is near St. Faith's green.

Eaſt-lane manor is ſo denominated from its ſituation. By the diſſolution of Leeds priory it came to Henry VIII., who gave it to the church of Rocheſter. The dean and chapter hold a court baron, to which quit-rents are paid for twenty-five tenements ſtanding in Eaſt-lane and the Middle-row.

The Park-houſe is a ſeat, with an eſtate poſſeſſed by the ſee of Canterbury, until Cranmer exchanged it with Henry VIII., who leaſed the ſeat and Le Park to William Smith; but the unfortunate Sir Anthony Knevet appears to have occupied it. In the reign of Charles II. it had been granted away, for it was then the property of Sir Thomas Taylor, Bart., whoſe ſon leaving no iſſue, his heirs ſold it to the Calders. The late Sir Henry Calder, Bart., a general in the army, and deputy-governor of Gibraltar, took down the old houſe, and built another at a ſmall diſtance. It is a very handſome, large edifice, with a commanding proſpect, in the pariſh of Boxley, though not half a mile from Maidſtone, on the eaſt ſide of the road leading to Rocheſter.

Great Buckland manor is on the ſummit of the hill to the weſt of Maidſtone; the original name was Bocland, from its tenure. The de Boclands held it under the ſee of Canterbury, firſt in gavel-kind, afterwards in frank fee, until Henry IV.'s reign, when it was given to the college of St. Mary and All Saints, in Maidſtone. At the diſſolution it remained in the crown until Edward VI. gave it to lord Cobham. Upon the misfortunes of that family, by ſtipulations it came to the Cecils earls of Saliſbury; they diſpoſed of it to the Horſepooles, and they to the family of Engliſh, who in Charles II.'s reign conveyed it to Sir John Banks. One of

his

his coheirs took it, in the partition of his eſtates, to the ennobled family of Finch; and it is now the property of the earl of Aylesford.

A ſecond part of Buckland, called Little Buckland, was in the reign of James I. the property of Elizabeth viſcounteſs of Maidſtone and counteſs of Winchilſea, whoſe deſcendants ſold it to the Marſhams; and it is now lord Romney's.

A third part of Buckland, alſo called Little Buckland, which John Fletcher, in Charles II.'s reign, conveyed to Chriſtopher Vane lord Barnard, has deſcended from that family to David Papillon, of Acriſe, Eſq.

Halfway Oke, now Half Yoke, once a manor, is near Eaſt Farleigh bridge. It has been veſted in the different families of Fremingham, Pimpe, Iſley, and Videon. It has loſt its manerial rights, and one part was ſold to the French's, and of them bought by Mr. Fowle, of Frant; the other part by the Rev. Arthur Harris, vicar of Eaſt Farleigh, ſeveral of whoſe children poſſeſſed it: the laſt of them, Thomas Harris, of Barming, Eſq., dying unmarried, left it for life to Mrs. Mary Dorman, who now enjoys it. The remainder is veſted in the family of Mumford, of Sutton at Hone.

The hamlet of Luddington, anciently Lodingford, from a ford ſo called over the river, is accounted in Maidſtone pariſh, though the pariſhes of Linton and Looſe intervene. It is ſituated near Style bridge, in the road leading to Marden and Staplehurſt. The Rev. Dr. William Forſter, by marriage, inherits this manor.

The college of prieſts, or hoſpital of St. Peter and St. Paul, founded by archbiſhop Boniface in 1260, patronized by ſeveral ſucceeding metropolitans, and confirmed by the Engliſh and papal courts, was ſurrendered in 1546, by its laſt maſter, into the royal hands, when its annual revenue was 212*l.* 5*s.* 3½*d.*, and its clear yearly income 159*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* Edward VI. granted it to the Cobhams. The Marſhams have long poſſeſſed the building with the college lands; the former ſtands on the ſouth ſide the cemetery of the church, and is of ſtone, now converted into a handſome reſidence: the fine gateway is uſed for offices, and the other parts of this ancient fabric are converted into hoaſts, ſtowage rooms for hops, and ſuch other purpoſes.

John Wotton, rector of Staplehurſt, and canon of Chicheſter, was the firſt maſter, and by his own deſire was buried on the ſouth ſide of the chancel of the church, where many of his ſucceſſors were alſo laid; the moſt celebrated of them, the learned William Grocyn, tutor and friend of the ſtill more illuſtrious Eraſmus, dying

dying at the age of eighty, in 1522, was buried at the end of the ſtalls in the high choir, or great chancel in this church.

The fraternity of Corpus Chriſti, founded by ſome townſmen, is now the free grammar-ſchool, ſtanding at the end of Earl-ſtreet, near the river. The inſtitution enrolled both natives and the moſt eminent knights, parochial clergy, and ladies, in the neighbourhood; the annual ſubſcription of whom, with obiit money, formed the principal part of their revenues: their feaſts upon Corpus Chriſti day were very profuſe. The brothers profeſſed the rule of St. Benedict.

At its ſuppreſſion by Edward VI. the fixed income was 40*l.* The corporation purchaſed the ſcite for 9*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* To allay the intemperate heats of ſome of the townſmen reſpecting what uſe it ſhould be appropriated to, the duke of Somerſet, the protector, wrote a conciliatory letter, exhorting all of them to unite in uſing what had been conſecrated to religious purpoſes for the public good; the letter had the wiſhed-for effect. Elizabeth gave the ſchool ſeveral excellent ſtatutes for its government. Mr. Thomas Cole was its firſt maſter. The preſent one is the Rev. Thomas Evans. William Lamb, a gentleman of the chapel to Henry VIII., gave 10*l.* yearly to it; and the Rev. Robert Gunſley, rector of Titſey, in Surry, an exhibition to two out of his four ſcholars, which are ſent to Univerſity college, in Oxford. The corporation gives 20*l.* a year. John Davy, M. D., who died in 1649, gave an eſtate for the better maintenance of the maſter and uſher: ſome of its lands have been loſt for want of care. The income is but ſmall. The ſchool-room and ſome other parts are what were the chapel, and three ſides of the cloiſter. The late maſter, the Rev. Thomas Cherry, who now worthily preſides over Merchant Taylors' ſchool, in London, was a very liberal and munificent benefactor, by improving the old part, and adding many conveniences to it. He will be long lamented at Maidſtone and its neighbourhood.

Ancient foundation. At the corner of Eaſt-lane, fronting to the High-ſtreet, is a houſe which has its lower or ground floor vaulted with ſtone, with a Gothic door-caſe, evidently once ſome religious building. It is called the priory, or friery, in old deeds, and is generally ſuppoſed to have been a convent of Franciſcan or Grey friars, founded here in 1331 by Edward III., and John earl of Cornwall, his brother, but removed to Walſingham, in Norfolk. Maidſtone is very greatly raiſed ſince the fourteenth century; the entrance into the ancient part of this houſe being ſo much beneath the ſurface of the ſtreet, that the top of the arched door-way is

parallel

parallel to the pavement, and a flight of ſteps leads into the apartment, now a vaulted warehouſe.

Another ancient religious edifice is on the weſt ſide of the river in the borough, finely ſeated upon the bank: it was the property of the late Mr. Addiſon. The chapel, uſed for the ſtowage of bark, is quite entire, and having no pillars, is one of the fineſt rooms that can well be imagined; the architecture in the inſide is ſo ſimply elegant, that the lovers of the true Gothic muſt lament with the pious that it is not converted to the uſe for which it was originally deſigned. Many other buildings are ſcattered about or adjoin it. In what is now a garden was the cemetery, where many human bones were ſome years ago taken up, and buried cloſe to the banks of the river. It is ſingular that none of the Kentiſh hiſtorians mention this ancient religious foundation, though it forms a prominent feature from the bridge, and many other parts of the town and neighbourhood.

Maidſtone is in the dioceſe of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, but exempt from the juriſdiction of the archdeacon. The church is one of the fineſt parochial ones in the kingdom; the body is much the oldeſt. The chancel, before it was rebuilt by archbiſhop Courtney, extended ſome yards farther to the eaſt. The foundations of the ancient chancel were within theſe laſt ten years taken up at a great expenſe; but as the cemetery is far too ſmall for ſo populous a place, it made more room to inter the dead, and was in ſome meaſure become neceſſary. There was a ſpire which was covered with lead, but this was burnt down by lightning on November 2, 1730. The church is extremely neat within, and kept in the moſt exact and commendable manner; both church and chancel have been thoroughly repaired and greatly improved; the roof is lofty, and covered with copper. It was anciently dedicated to the bleſſed Virgin Mary, but by Courtney, when made collegiate, to All Saints.

There are a great number of ancient and modern monuments; archbiſhop Courtney's is the moſt remarkable of the old ones: it has been lately diſcovered that his bones reſt in the middle of the choir, under a ſtone which had his effigies in braſs. On one ſide the altar is a tomb erected over the great grandfather of Edward IV.'s queen. Several of the ennobled families of Aſtley and Marſham lie in vaults within the communion rails.

The ſtalls for the maſter and fellows of the college ſtill remain in the chancel:

until the burial of the late lord Romney, ſome of the painted tiles, with coats of arms upon them, were upon the pavement.

This fine edifice would have been deſtroyed at the Reformation, if Edward VI. had not permitted, and James I. confirmed it to the pariſh. The former ſovereign gave the rectory to Sir Thomas Wyat; ſince then it has been accounted only as a perpetual curacy. At his attainture queen Mary gave the patronage to cardinal archbiſhop Pole, but the great tithes to Chriſtopher Roper, Eſq., for a term of years. Queen Elizabeth granted the reverſion to Parker and his ſucceſſors, archbiſhops of Canterbury; but the emolument to the incumbent was become ſo very ſmall, that Whitgift augmented it 10*l.* per annum, Juxon 37*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and Sancroft gave the ſmall tithes of the borough of Week and Stone, the commodities of the church-yard, and one moiety of the ſmall tithes within the town and borough of Maidſtone: the preſent curate is the Rev. John Denne, A. M. It is ſingular that no houſe belongs to the preferment, which is ſtill a ſcanty proviſion. The rectory makes a part of the archiepiſcopal revenue. In this church were two chantries ſuppreſſed with the college: the one founded by Robert Viner in the reign of Edward III., the other by archbiſhop Arundel in that of Henry IV.

St. Faith's church or chapel was not parochial, but independent of the mother church, ſtanding on the green, to which it gave name, and once ſerved as a place of divine worſhip to the people who reſided on the north ſide of the town. Like the other religious foundations in this place, its hiſtory is little known. It came into the hands of Edward VI., perhaps by the general words of the act to ſuppreſs all religious places not parochial; yet the pariſh continued to uſe it for ſome time, and to bury their dead in the cemetery till the reign of James I., though the Mapleſdens owned it as their eſtate until their attainture, and after them the Barhams: a part at leaſt of it was uſed by the Walloons for a place of public worſhip until 1634, when archbiſhop Laud obliged them to conform to the national church. The preſbyterians hired it afterwards for the ſame purpoſe until 1735, when they erected a meeting-houſe elſewhere. Much of the chancel is ſtill ſtanding, and is now divided; one part is a boarding-ſchool for young ladies, the other ſome time ago was converted into an aſſembly-room; a ſtrange change from its original uſe! The cemetery, which was large, has lately become a nurſery-ground; many of the remains of mortality were taken up, which the gardener decently re-interred a little lower

lower than the ſpade had occaſion to go. The whole was the property of Sir Thomas Taylor, Bart., of whoſe heirs Mr. Samuel Fullager purchaſed the eſtate; and it is now the property of his ſon, Mr. Chriſtopher Fullager.

The town and pariſh of Maidſtone have given ſome remarkable characters. Dr. Lee, archbiſhop of York, was born here; and in diſtant ages many great eccleſiaſtics, from its having been the place of their nativity, their having been beneficed, or reſided here, took the name of de Maidſtone. The ſurname of Maidſtone is often found in our hiſtories and elſewhere. In the laſt century Andrew Broughton, gent., the moſt active of the clerks of that infamous tribunal, the pretended high court of juſtice, which ſentenced their ſovereign Charles I. to the block, was an attorney in, and recorder of Maidſtone. Attending the public worſhip, Wilſon, a zealous monarchical preſbyterian, who then was perpetual curate, inveighing againſt the king's murder, ſaying, "That David's heart ſmote him "when he only cut off the ſkirt of Saul's garment, but men dared now to cut off "the head of a king without remorſe;" he roſe from his ſeat, and left the church; obſerving which, the preacher remarked, that "when the word of God comes "home to a man, it makes him fly for it." Broughton, highly incenſed, obtained the ſchool-room for the uſe of Joſeph Whiſton, an independent preacher, where he regularly attended. This man governed Maidſtone during the Uſurpation; in 1648, at the expenſe of 50*l.* a new mace was procured by him without the royal arms. In 1659 he was mayor a ſecond time, but removed, as he became obnoxious from his horrid crime. At the Reſtoration, coming down privately from London, he, as recorder, proclaimed Charles II.; but immediately went to the Star inn, where his ſervant waited with a fleet horſe; he rode off full ſpeed to a ſea-port, and eſcaped to the continent. By proclaiming the ſon of his murdered maſter, he hoped to eſcape puniſhment; but the parliament excepted him in the act of indemnity, and being proſcribed, Charles II. gave the very handſome houſe which he had built in Earl-ſtreet, now divided, to the duke of York his brother, who ſoon diſpoſed of it: until within theſe three or four years the arms of Broughton were over the door; they were the ſame as thoſe of the baronet family of that name. This infamous man died at Vevay, in Switzerland, where is this epitaph upon his monument given us by Mr. Addiſon, in his Travels:

" DEPOSITUM

" *Andreæ Broughton, armigeri Anglicani Maydſtonenſis in comitatu Cantii, ubi* " *bis prætor urbanus; dignatuſque etiam fuit ſententiam regis regum profari. Quam* " *ob cauſam expulſus patriâ ſuâ, peregrinatione ejus finitâ, ſolo ſenectutis morbo* " *affectus requieſcens a laboribus ſuis in Domino obdormivit, 23 die Feb. A. D.* " 1687, *ætatis ſuæ* 84."

Nearly equal in infamy was Thomas Trapham, ſon of a father of both his names, of Maidſtone, admitted a bachelor of phyſic, at Oxford, in 1648, who, as ſurgeon to general Fairfax, being employed to prepare the body of Charles I. for interment, brutiſhly ſaid, when he had fixed the head to the trunk, " I have ſewed " on the head of a gooſe." He became ſurgeon to Cromwell, and died at Abingdon, December 29, 1683, in favour with, and employed by ſuch who were, like him, bigotted republicans.

Thomas Read, of Maidſtone, gent., was one of the witneſſes brought by the high court of juſtice againſt the unhappy monarch; his evidence was, that, " Pre- " ſently after the laying down of arms in Cornwall, between Leſtithiel and Foy, " i. e. Leſtwithiel and Fowey, in or about the latter end of the month of Auguſt, " or the beginning of September 1644, he, this deponent, did ſee the king in the " head of a guard of horſe."—Many of the witneſſes againſt the king were compelled loyaliſts; we may charitably hope this gentleman was one. It is ſingular that Maidſtone, then ſo much ſmaller than now, ſhould have three ſuch characters at one time.

John Jenkyns, a famous muſician and compoſer, well known in the courts of Charles I. and II., whoſe fame extended even to Italy, was a native of Maidſtone: as was the late fine engraver, Mr. Woollett. Mr. Jeffery, jun., of this town, who died ſome years ago, would have been amongſt the moſt able painters that Britain has known, had he lived, as the ſpecimens we have of his pencil evince. A collection of drawings, which would be appropriate to an edition of Chaucer, are incomparable, equally pleaſing to the artiſt and the antiquary. There are two inſtances of longevity in the pariſh regiſters: July 30, 1616, Avis Sommerhurſt, widow, was buried " *æt. ut dicunt* 102;" and Ann Naſh, buried June 25, 1625, aged 106 years.

BOXLEY.

BOXLEY.

TO the north-eaſt of Maidſtone is Boxley, written Boſeleu in Domeſday-book, and Boxele and Boxle in the Textus Roffenſis; on the ſouth, it nearly joins the town of Maidſtone, ſtretching itſelf almoſt four miles in length, though not exceeding three in breadth, and generally much leſs. On Boxley-hill is one of the moſt extenſive and pleaſing proſpects in this part of Kent.

The land is very various; to the north, chalk; the middle, chiefly ſand; to the ſouth, more fertile; but a heavy, ſwampy ſoil. There are two ſtreams, one riſing near the chalk hills, the other below the church; uniting near the abbey, they fall into the Medway oppoſite Allington-caſtle. It is greatly interſected by roads. Several paper-mills form principal features: the upper ones are the property of lord Aylesford, the lower ones of Meſſrs. Hollingſworth, called the Old Turkey mills. They are very extenſive buildings, and their mechaniſm is no leſs obſervable than the regularity of the perſons employed, and the commodiouſneſs of every part of the whole for various branches of the manufactory, which exceeds every other in the kingdom; eſpecially the wire-wove, univerſally admired. The mills were erected by Mr. James Whatman, who, in 1739, pulled down the preceding ones uſed for fulling, and in their room built theſe; his ſon James Whatman, Eſq., brought them to their preſent perfection. In 1794 he diſpoſed of them to the gentlemen who now carry on the buſineſs.

The manor of Boxley was held by Alnod Cilt prior to, and by Robert Latin under Odo biſhop of Bayeux, after the Norman conqueſt. It remained in the crown after his diſgrace, until Richard I. gave it to the abbey of Boxley, founded in 1146 by William d'Ipre earl of Kent, who died a monk at Laon, in Flanders. The order of Ciſtertians, or white monks, were under the protection of the bleſſed Virgin, the patroneſs of all their monaſteries. They became a ſociety firſt at Ciſteaux, in Burgundy, in the year 1098, and were ſo popular in England, that at their diſſolution they had eighty-five houſes.

The abbot of this monaſtery was twice in the reign of Edward I. ſummoned to ſit in the houſe of peers. Edward II. honoured Boxley-abbey with a viſit. Edward III. granted free warren to the abbot in the manor. The laſt abbot ſurrendered the houſe to Henry VIII.; the clear revenue was 204*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* according

to Dugdale; Speed gives its income at 218*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* A chapel, dedicated to St. Andrew the apoſtle, was near the gate of the abbey.

This monaſtery was remarkable for two pieces of Romiſh quackery; a crucifix, called the rood of grace, which by mechaniſm moving its eyes, impoſed upon the credulity of the ignorant vulgar. It was taken to London, publicly broken to pieces and burnt, at St. Paul's croſs, on Sunday, February 24, 1538, before Dr Hilſey biſhop of Rocheſter, and a prodigious multitude. The other was a ſtatue of St. Rumbald, called by the common people St. Gumbald, and held by them in the utmoſt reverence from its ſuppoſed power of working miracles. By ſuch low tricks the monks diſgraced themſelves, and injured the beſt of intereſts.

The ſcite and manor was exchanged by Henry VIII. with Sir Thomas Wyat; when all the eſtates of that unfortunate criminal were loſt to his family, queen Mary reſtored the manor to his widow. Queen Elizabeth granted the abbey to John Aſtley, Eſq., for a term of years; at its expiration the Wyats appear to have ſucceeded to it by a reverſionary grant from that ſovereign. The lineal deſcendant left this manor to the ennobled family of Marſham, and it is now the property of lord Romney; whoſe ſiſters, the Hon. Miſs Marſhams, and his lordſhip's brother-in-law, John Cooker, Eſq., reſide here, univerſally beloved and reſpected. Courts leet and baron are regularly held for this manor, whoſe tenants are freeholders in free ſoccage tenure.

Boxley-abbey went to the heirs of George Wyat, Eſq. until it came to Sir Francis Wyat, governor of Virginia, who had two ſons, Henry and Edwin; the former leaving an only daughter, married to Sir Thomas Seyliard, Bart., ſhe took the abbey into that family; but the manor being proved to have been ſettled upon male iſſue, with the eſtates appendant upon it, went to Mr. Ewin Wyat, the younger brother. Sir Thomas Seyliard's two daughters and coheirs ſold the abbey to the Auſtens. The laſt baronet of that family deviſed it to the relations of his lady, and in virtue of that will it came to John Amhurſt, Eſq., and ſince his death without iſſue, to captain John-Thomas Amhurſt, and the repreſentatives of the late Mr. James Allen, in equal ſhares.

Newnham-court, a manor belonging anciently to Boxley-abbey, came to the crown by Sir Thomas Wyat's attainture. Queen Elizabeth, in her eleventh year, gave it to the Aſtley family; they to their relation Sir Norton Knatchbull, Bart., and he to Sir John Banks, Bart., one of whoſe daughters and coheirs took it to the Finch's,

Finch's, earls of Aylesford: the preſent nobleman obtained an act of parliament to empower him to exchange ſome premiſes which were a part of it, eſpecially Poll mill, with Mr. Whatman.

Wavering, a hamlet, was, at an early period, poſſeſſed by the Houghams, near Dover. After being divided into lots, it wholly veſted in the Wyat family; and thence, by Sir Thomas's attainture, in the crown, but was reſtored by queen Elizabeth for three lives, the remainder being granted by Charles I. to Stephen Alcock, of Rocheſter, Eſq.; he conveyed it to the Wyats, the laſt of whom deviſed it to the anceſtor of lord Romney, the preſent poſſeſſor, who alſo enjoys the fee-farm of the manor, purchaſed from the crown in the reign of Charles II., and confirmed by parliament. The manor is now merged in the paramount one of Boxley.

Vinters, anciently Vintners, on the ſouth part of the pariſh, gave name and reſidence to the Vinters; they ſold it in Henry IV.'s reign to the Freminghams, who left it to the Iſleys; upon their attainture queen Mary granted it to the Cutts; and after many transfers the ſeat and eſtate was alienated to the Whytes, who reſided here, and afterwards to the baronial family of Onley: lord Onley in 1783 was enabled by parliament to diſpoſe of the premiſes, which were purchaſed by the late James Whatman, Eſq. The family of Champneis had uſually occupied the ſeat, which Mr. Whatman rebuilt, and his widow Mrs. Whatman makes it her reſidence: the remainder is veſted in James Whatman, Eſq., his only ſon. The tithes of this eſtate, once belonging to Leeds-abbey, are now by the gift of Henry VIII., part of the poſſeſſions of the dean and chapter of Rocheſter.

Ovenhelle, now Overhill-farm, lying on the chalk-hills, was formerly a manor, and, with others near it, obliged to contribute to the repair of the fourth pier of Rocheſter bridge. The Longchamps held it; after them the Penceſtres; then the Cobhams; and now lord Romney, from the will of the laſt Mr. Wyat. Sir Oſbert de Longo Campo, or Longchamp, held the manor of Edward I. by ſergeantry, the ſervice of which was ſingular, attending the king in his army into Wales forty days at his own expenſe, with a horſe valued at five ſhillings, and a wallet worth ſixpence, having a broche to it.

The Grange, or Nether Grange, part of the eſtate belonging to the abbey, was by queen Mary retained upon Wyat's execution. Queen Elizabeth gave it, conſiſting of a meſſuage and 340 acres of meadow and paſture land, to George Clarke, Eſq., whoſe ſon diſpoſed of it to the Brewers, and they in the reign of Charles I. to the Calders,

Calders, who now poſſeſs it, the ſeat of which has been mentioned in Maidſtone pariſh.

Court-lodge, a large farm, is the property of Sir William Geary, Bart., by the limitation of his relation Leonard Bartholomew, of Oxonhoath, Eſq.

The Grove, on the ſouth ſide of the pariſh, from the Waverings paſſed in Henry IV.'s reign to the Burbiges; the laſt heir male leaving it to his ſiſter, ſhe conveyed it, in 1702, to Mr. John Watts, ſo well known for his working the very fine vein of fuller's earth in this pariſh. His heirs alienated the Grove to general Belford, who left it to his two ſons, colonel Guſtavus Belford, and William Belford, Eſq. The property is ſhared by the former of thoſe gentlemen, and the two daughters and coheirs of the latter.

The ſeats in this pariſh not noticed, are thoſe of the Rev. George Berville, which he inherits from the will of his maternal uncle, John Charlton, Eſq.; and Parkhouſe, once the reſidence of the St. John family, now of Thomas Beſt, Eſq.

Boxley is within the dioceſe of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton. Its church, dedicated to All Saints, is a fine, large Gothic ſtructure: there are ſome handſome monuments within it of the Wyats, Champneys, and Charltons; and in the cemetery the Beſts have elegant tombs. After much contention between the monks of Boxley and thoſe of Rocheſter, the great tithes were awarded to the former. At the diſſolution Henry VIII. gave them to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter.

The vicarage, one of the beſt in Kent, is valued in the king's books 12*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* The vicar has a penſion of 8*l.* per annum from the exchequer as an augmentation; out of which he pays 12*s.* if he receives it himſelf, and 20*s.* if by another. The vicarage-houſe is elegant, but unfortunately without any glebe. There are living three former vicars: Dr. Markham archbiſhop of York, who built much to the houſe; Dr. North biſhop of Wincheſter, who alſo reſided here; the Rev. William Nance, A. M., who ſpent 500*l.* in building to, and improving the vicarage; the preſent incumbent is the Rev. John Benſon, D. D., prebendary of Canterbury. The learned North Briton, Dr. John Balcanquall, ſucceſſively dean of Rocheſter and Durham, who repreſented the church of Scotland in the ſynod of Dort, was vicar of Boxley, which he reſigned in 1640, and ſunk under the church's and his own miſfortunes in 1645. His ſon, Walter Balcanquall, A. M., ſucceeded him, but reſigned in 1646.

In Boxley pariſh is far the greater part of Penenden-heath, generally called Pick-

enden-

enden-heath, at the conqueſt Pinnedenna-heath; the remainder of it is in Maidſtone pariſh. Here on the north ſide, in a very humble ſhed, is held the county court, monthly; and at elections for the county here the ſheriff aſſembles the meeting, as he does for the election of coroners, but generally adjourns them to Maidſtone, unleſs the former are conteſted, as unhappily has been frequently the caſe. A more brilliant aſſembly can ſcarce be ſuppoſed; large capacious booths are at ſuch times built near for the accommodation of the candidates, and thoſe employed by them. Oppoſite to this in Maidſtone pariſh, on a very riſing ground, is a gallows for the execution of criminals.

As a central place Penenden-heath is convenient and commodious for county meetings. The moſt celebrated aſſemblage was in 1076, when William the Conqueror commanded his nobles, and other perſons of conſequence, to hear the allegations brought againſt his turbulent, avaricious half-brother, Odo biſhop of Bayeux, and earl of Kent, ſo often mentioned. Goisfrid biſhop of Conſtance repreſented the ſovereign; Lanfranc archbiſhop of Canterbury pleaded the cauſe of the oppreſſed church, as well againſt the rapacity of Odo as the encroachments of Hugh Montfort, and Ralph de Curva Spina, or Crookthorne: the matter was ſolemnly pleaded by the head of the Anglican church, and as boldly defended by the imperious Odo: many of the greateſt and wiſeſt men in the kingdom attended, both Anglo-Saxons and Normans; eſpecially ſuch who were barons of the ſovereign and the archbiſhop, or tenants of the latter; at the head of whom, under the biſhop of Conſtance, were Richard de Tonebridge, Hugh de Montfort, though complained of, William de Arſic, and Hamo, the vicecomes or ſheriff of Kent; as perſons who could give the beſt intelligence, and whoſe diſintereſtedneſs was equally known. Erneſt and Agelric, biſhops of Rocheſter and Cheſter, aſſiſted at the tribunal; the latter was a very wiſe man, and extremely well verſed in the Engliſh laws; on account of his great age he was brought in a waggon! After a trial of three days the archbiſhop obtained the moſt ample juſtice.

Some Roman antiquities have been diſcovered in this pariſh. At Grove an urn was found in 1711, near the vein of fuller's earth; and ſeveral other of theſe funeral remains, with coins and other relics, have been dug up near Vintners and Goddard's hill; at the latter there are vaſt ſtones ſet up like thoſe at Horſted. February 17, 1790, was buried Ann Pilcher, aged 100 years and eight months: an antiquity of another kind.

In this pariſh are theſe plants, which are rarely ſeen—borago minor ſilveſtris, ſmall white bugloſs, or German madwort;—ſcopyllum anguſti folium glabrum, ſmooth, narrow-leaved thyme;—buxus, the box-tree, which flouriſhes abundantly in the woods;—ſtellaria ſanicula major, ladies' mantle.

D E T L I N G.

THE pariſh of Detling, anciently written Detlinges, to the eaſt of Boxley, is a ſequeſtered ſpot, in the road from Maidſtone to Sittingborne. There is little here to pleaſe, being upon the barren chalk, and emboſomed in its own bruſhwood, affording many native yews, and a profuſion of columbines. The want of rural beauties is amply compenſated by health, the firſt of bleſſings.

This was alſo a part of the immenſe poſſeſſions of Odo, but regained by the legal owners, the metropolitans of Canterbury. A family reſiding here were called de Detling, until they changed their name to Brampton, an heireſs of whom took it to the At Townes, and their heir general to the Lewknors, who alienated the manor to the Woodvilles, one of whom being attainted by Richard III. Brakenbury obtained it of him; Richard Lewknor, Eſq., received it from Henry VII., probably becauſe his family had retained ſome eſtates here after they had diſpoſed of the manor; his ſole daughter and heir took the whole to George Hills, whoſe two daughters and coheirs conveyed it to the families of Martin and Vincent: ſince then the manor has been divided, one part being called Eaſt, the other Weſt court.

Eaſt-court, after various transfers, was purchaſed by Francis Foote, of Veryan, in Cornwall, Eſq., whoſe deſcendant, George-Talbot-Hatley Foote, Eſq., now owns both this and Weſt-court; his father, Benjamin-Hatley Foote, Eſq., having purchaſed the latter of the heirs of Thomas Borrett, of Shoreham, in Kent, Eſq., one of the prothonotaries of the common pleas. Mr. Foote holds a court baron for the manor of Detling, which is paramount to that of Henkhurſt, in Staplehurſt.

Detling, in the dioceſe of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, has a ſmall church, once a chapel of eaſe to Maidſtone, ſtanding on the ſouth-weſt end of the village, anciently Polley-ſtreet, from the Polley or Polhill family, who ſtill have lands here called Polley Fields. The church is exempt from the juriſdiction of the archdeacon of Canterbury. The vicarage is a diſcharged living of the certified clear yearly

yearly value of 30*l.*; it has been thrice augmented, which makes an addition of 16*l.* The incumbent is the Rev. Denny-Martin Fairfax, D. D., who reſides in Leeds-caſtle.

This pariſh is remarkable for the women bringing twin children; but the following is a very ſingular increaſe—Ann, the wife of Thomas Smith, clerk of this pariſh, had three children; a daughter born alive at four o'clock in the afternoon of Thurſday, June 20, 1661; on the following Sunday at five o'clock in the morning a ſtill-born daughter, and at four o'clock in the afternoon a ſon: the firſt and laſt, with the mother, lived. It is obſervable that this pariſh and Thurnham ſhould have ſo many more double births than the neighbouring ones, in proportion to their population.

LOOSE.

TO the ſouth of Maidſtone is Looſe, anciently Hloſe, or Loſe, from the Anglo-Saxon hloſan, to loſe, from its ſtream loſing itſelf at Briſhing, and running from thence ſubterraneouſly for near half a mile, riſing again at the quarries in the eaſtern extremity of the pariſh. Looſe is the moſt romantic ſpot in this part of the kingdom, and from its reſemblance has the name of the Engliſh Spa. It is every way a moſt agreeable place; its mills for making paper, grinding of corn, and fulling, with its tan-yards, make what ſeems formed for retirement a buſy ſcene. The pariſh is finely wooded, and the river and ſprings give it a profuſion of water. Agriculture is no where better underſtood, nor practiſed to more advantage; its paſturage adds much to the general diverſity of its ſcenery.

There are few places whoſe hiſtory can be traced ſo high as Looſe. Ethelwulf, the Anglo-Saxon monarch, in 832 gave it to Sueta, then a widow: ſhe and her daughter preſented it to the priory of Chriſt-church, in Canterbury, which allotted its income to purchaſe clothing for their fraternity. It had free warren, courts leet and baron, which latter are ſtill retained, and where borſholders are elected for Wanſhurſt, Falkſheath, and Pattenden, in the Weald. At the Reformation Henry VIII. gave it to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter. John Penfold, Eſq., is leſſee, as have been his wife's relations the Criſpes or Cripps, for a conſiderable time. Mr. Penfold reſides here, having a moſt highly cultivated farm, elegantly arranged, uniting taſte with utility.

A late very elaborate writer thinks there was another manor, which once belonged to the Freminghams, who left it to the Pimpes; but of this little is ſatisfactory.

The ſeat of Salt's-place, once the Bufkins, is now poſſeſſed by the Rev. Dr. Denny-Martin Fairfax, whoſe anceſtors the Martins obtained it by their deſcent from them; at preſent the houſe is unoccupied. William Poſt, Eſq., reſides at Hale-place in this pariſh, once called le Hayle. It is of conſiderable antiquity, as its gateway evinces; but the houſe has been new-fronted.

This pariſh, in the dioceſe of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, has an ancient church, dedicated to All Saints, once a chapel of eaſe to Maidſtone. The great tithes belong to the ſee of Canterbury, by a grant from Elizabeth, to whom they came as part of the poſſeſſions of the college of prieſts in Maidſtone. The living is diſcharged: archbiſhop Juxon, and Mr. Beale, a rich Hamburgh merchant, a native of Looſe, augmented it; but ſtill the ſtipend is far inadequate to the duty. The preſent curate is the Rev. Denny-Martin Fairfax, D. D. In the church-yard is perhaps the oldeſt and the largeſt yew-tree in England.

LINTON.

LINTON, to the ſouth of Looſe, on the oppoſite ſide of Cock's-heath, was anciently Lyllynton; in Latin, Lilintuna, i. e. lytlan, ſmall, and ſtane, a ſtone, from its quarries of ſtone. It is chiefly in the Weald; the view from hence towards that diſtrict is moſt pictureſque, and inferior in richneſs to no woodland view in the iſland. The extenſive common called Cock's-heath, part within this pariſh, is elevated, dry, and open, conſequently well ſelected for encampments; there have been ſeveral:—that of 1778 was the largeſt; 15,000 men were ſtationed here, yet only two-thirds of the whole was covered with tents: the remains of theſe encampments are yet very diſcernible, but gradually wear out. Linton is famous for its hops, which reſiſt the periodical blights better than moſt other ſituations. The road croſſes the river at Style bridge.

This place is not mentioned in the Domeſday ſurvey, owing, it may be ſuppoſed, to its manor being within that of Eaſt Farleigh, except a ſmall part which Looſe claims over it. The tenants in fee of the former hold in free ſoccage.

Linton's-place, once Capel's-court, ſo called from the at-Capells, or de Capella family, who reſided at Capel's-court, in Ivechurch, in the Marſh: they diſpoſed of

of it in Henry's IV.'s reign to Richard Bayſden, whoſe deſcendants in that of Elizabeth ſold it to the Maneys, deſervedly for their loyalty created baronets; from them by purchaſe it went in Charles II.'s reign to Sir Francis Withens: Catherine his ſole daughter and heir took it ſucceſſively to her huſbands Sir Thomas Twiſden, Bart., and brigadier-general George Jocelyn; he diſpoſed of it to the Mann family, one of whom took down the old manſion of Capel's-court, and built a ſmall neat ſeat, which is very peculiarly ſituated, its lower ſtories being not ſeen from Cock's-heath, but to the Weald exhibits a good front. It is now poſſeſſed by Sir Horace Mann, Bart., but inhabited by Edward Mann, Eſq.

The Welldiſhs's had for many years an eſtate here, ſeveral of whom are buried in the church, deſcended from one who had been huntſman to William the Norman, diſtinguiſhed alike for his exploits in the chaſe and in arms; their eſtate, purchaſed by the Maney family, went with their other eſtates in this pariſh.

Linton has an alms-houſe for four families, built and endowed by the Maneys, but rebuilt and augmented in 1749 by Robert Mann, Eſq.

This pariſh, in the dioceſe of Canterbury, and deanry of Sutton, has a church dedicated to St. Nicholas, a ſmall, but very neat edifice, rich in monuments, eſpecially of the Maneys and Manns, with their alliances: alſo of the Tokes, Richs's, and others. In the church-yard are ſeveral tombs, one of which is very ancient; at each end is a large croſs; it has no inſcription. The monument againſt the ſouth wall in the body of the church of various marbles, with an urn in an arched receſs, adorned with fine Gothic ornaments, is worthy the taſte of the late lord Orford, who erected it. The inſcription is,

"GALFREDO MANN,
Amiciſſimo optimo,
Qui obiit Dec. xx. MDCCLVI.
Ætatis ſuæ L.
Horatius Walpole
P."

Here alſo was buried Sir Horatio Mann, Bart., knight of the Bath, who had for forty-ſix years reſided at Florence as his majeſty's envoy extraordinary and miniſter plenipotentiary to the grand ducal court of Tuſcany, and where he died November 6, 1786; his body being brought to England, was conveyed to this place with vaſt pomp.

The

The vicarage, in the gift of Sir Horace Mann, who is lay-impropriator, is valued at 7*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; the Rev. Robert Foote, A. M., is the preſent incumbent.

Lunaria, or ſmall moon-wort, grows on Cock's-heath in this pariſh.

EAST FARLEIGH.

EAST, or Great Farleigh, as Leland calls it, to the north-weſt of Linton, is two miles from Maidſtone, and rich in plantations of hops, apples, cherries, and filberts. Great part of Cock's-heath lies in this pariſh; the Medway is the oppoſite boundary; the beſt bridge upon the river, except Rocheſter, is here.

Edgiva, the third and laſt queen of Edward the elder, whom ſhe ſurvived forty years, and mother of Edmund and Edred, two other of our Anglo-Saxon monarchs, in 961 gave this place to the monaſtery of Chriſt-church, in Canterbury, free of every ſecular ſervice, except repairing bridges and building caſtles. At the diſſolution Henry VIII. gave the manor to Sir Thomas Wyat, whoſe attainture reſtored it to the crown, where it ſtill remains, and the duke of Leeds holds it under a fee-farm rent of 10*s.* During the Uſurpation colonel Gibbon poſſeſſed it.

Court-lodge, the chief manor, with all the demeſne lands, containing about 200 acres, was granted to Sir John Baker, after Wyat's attainture, to hold *in capite* by knight's ſervice; being left to his ſecond ſon, he deviſed the eſtate to the far-famed Sir Richard Baker, who has chronicled ſuch extraordinary tales, and publiſhed other works, long conſigned to oblivion: this unhappy knight died in the Fleet-priſon, February 18, 1644-5, having diſpoſed of this eſtate to Sir Francis Fane, of Burſton, in Hunton, one of which family ſold it to Mr. John Amhurſt, the occupier of the land; the deſcendant of his brother, Stephen Amhurſt, of Weſt Farleigh, gent., is the owner of this eſtate: the ruinous manſion has long been inhabited only by cottagers.

Gallants, a manor, once belonging to a branch of the Colepepers, who held it of the prior of Chriſt-church, in Canterbury; went from them to the Ropers, afterwards ennobled. Catherine, the daughter of Chriſtopher lord Teynham, took it to the Sheldons: the widow of the laſt of them conveyed it in marriage to her ſecond huſband, William Jones, M. D.; their daughters and coheirs, Mary and Ann, with their huſbands Lock Rollinſon, of Oxfordſhire, Eſq., and Thomas Ruſſel, have united to diſpoſe of it to Mr. Iſrael Lewis, of Hackney. The manor-

manor-houſe has long been let to the cultivators of the land: ſome remains of its ancient ſtate appear in the Gothic door-caſes and windows, caſed with aſhlar ſtone: the walls are chiefly of flint.

Pimpe's-court, anciently the ſeat of the Pimpes, who held under the Clares earls of Glouceſter, an heireſs of theſe Pimpes took it to Sir John Rainsford, who alienated it to Sir Henry Iſley; he diſgavelled it in Edward VI.'s reign, but loſt both the eſtate and his life by attainture. Queen Mary gave it to Sir John Baker, whoſe deſcendant ſold it in the end of Charles II.'s reign to Thomas Floyd, of Gore-court, in Otham, Eſq., whoſe deſcendant ſold it to the Brownes: their heir general carried it to the Holdens, the laſt of whom deviſed it to his widow, with remainder to his nephew Vechell, a minor, reſiding in Cambridgeſhire.

There is a ſeat here which has about twenty acres of land belonging to it, long poſſeſſed by the Goddens; the ſole heir of one of them in the reign of Charles II. took it to the Darbys; the laſt of whom, Mr. John Darby, leaving no iſſue, deviſed this eſtate to Mary his widow, daughter and one of the two coheirs of captain Elmſtone, of Egerton; ſhe remarrying to Mr. James Drury, he came, reſided, and died here; his widow makes it her ſeat: their ſole daughter and heir Elizabeth is now the widow of the late John Corrall, of Maidſtone, gent., in whom the remainder veſts. It is worthy remark, that except a younger branch of the Clerkes, of Wrotham, Mrs. Drury is the only perſon above the ſtation of a farmer that has been known to reſide in this pariſh for two centuries.

The pariſh is a peculiar of Canterbury, though in the ſee of Rocheſter and deanry of Shoreham. The church is a large, handſome, Gothic building, neatly pewed, through the care of the late vicar, the Rev. Ezekiel Paul de la Doueſpe, who alſo was a great benefactor to the living, by expending at leaſt 500*l.* in building to the vicarage-houſe. There are two monuments, one to the memory of a Colepeper, in the north wall of the great chancel, where the arms of that family are viſible; and another in Pimpe's chancel to that of Margaret de Cobham, wife of Sir William de Pimpe, who died in 1337, but no inſcription is viſible upon either of them: ſome grave-ſtones are in this chancel which have had braſs plates, and in the eaſt window of it three ſhields of arms and E. P.: this was formerly the chapel of the bleſſed Mary. There are two very ancient grave-ſtones, with a croſs, one alſo with a chalice upon it, probably laid over former vicars: the arch of the church leading from the tower or belfry is round and of zigzag work, which ſhows its antiquity.

In

In the church-yard is a very ſmall grave-ſtone, much defaced, inſcribed—" Here " lieth the body of Margaret Coomber, a maid; ſhe was barbarouſly murdered " by William Godden, March 14th, 1671, aged ſixty years." This unfortunate woman was killed in a wood ſince called Gibbet wood; the malefactor was executed, and his body hung in Dane-ſtreet.

The great tithes and glebe, conſiſting of forty acres of land, were given to the college at Maidſtone, and at its diſſolution were granted by the crown to the Fanes, and are, by the entailure of John earl of Weſtmorland, now the property of lord Le Deſpenſer. The patronage of this vicarage, valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, is in the crown; the late vicar let it for 160*l.*: the tithe of wheat and other grain growing upon what is called garden ſpots, is due to the vicar; but there is no glebe. The preſent incumbent is the Rev. Henry Freind, who has much improved the vicarage-houſe.

EAST BARMING.

THE pariſh of Eaſt Barming is next to Maidſtone, and exactly oppoſite to a part of Eaſt and Weſt Farleigh, the river dividing them. Its ancient name was Barmelinge, from its moiſt ſituation, having many ſprings, which forming rills, deſcend into the river, one ſo conſiderable, at the conqueſt, and for ſome ages afterwards, as to turn a mill. It gradually riſes from the Medway, and to the weſt ends in wood. The ſpring tides came up to St. Helen's before the river was made navigable.

Every writer ſpeaks with enthuſiaſm of the delightfully cultivated ſcenery that preſents itſelf: here is nothing rude; nothing to excite awe; no terrific, craggy mountain; no cataract to ſtun the wondering paſſenger; all is gentleneſs, ſerenity, and pleaſure. In the valley, the Medway winds its ſilent, deep, and ſilvery ſtream; the trickling rills, burſting from their rocky beds, glide into and ſwell the river as it paſſes; the luxuriant meadows, beſpangled with many a beautiful flower fringing its banks; the fine hanging woods of ſpreading oaks or lofty elms, terminating in the whitened church, and elegantly tapered ſpire, are conſpicuous to a great extent, owing to the curve of the valley; and theſe, added to the pictureſque wooden bridge of St. Helen, the beautiful village, the handſome reſidences of its gentry, the good houſes of the farmers, and the neat dwellings of the cottagers, render it the moſt charming ſpot in this enchanting valley: no wonder

then that they boaſt that as Kent is the garden of England, ſo Barming is that of Kent. Other parts of the county are healthy or wealthy, but this envious ſpot happily unites both; for the air is excellent, its waters extremely pure, and the cultivation is more varied and richer than any other ſpot in the kingdom of the ſame dimenſions. This pariſh has moſt rapidly increaſed in improvement and population within the preſent century.

The turnpike road from Maidſtone to Tunbridge runs through this diſtrict over what is called Barming, a century ago Longſole heath, and where, when the laſt encampment was upon Cock's-heath, there was "a flying" one. The road formerly went up North-ſtreet.

There was for a great many centuries a ferry at St. Helen's, at the bottom of the declivity of the hill.

The manor of Eaſt Barming was held by Alret in the reign of the Confeſſor; the Norman conqueror gave it to Richard de Tonebrige, whoſe deſcendants, the earls of Clare, Glouceſter, and Hertford, had the lordſhip. It was afterwards divided between the Peyforers and Kents, each holding of the manor of Clare. The heirs of the former appear to have poſſeſſed a manor in Eaſt Barming now known by the name of St. Helen's, becauſe given to the Benedictine nunnery of St. Helen, which ſtood in Biſhopſgate-ſtreet, in London. It certainly did not compriſe the whole pariſh: that once manor has long ceaſed to be one, from there having never been any court held for at leaſt a century and an half, nor probably long before.

The monaſtery of St. Helen's at the diſſolution was given by Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Williams alias Cromwell, great grandfather of the protector Oliver; but this eſtate was granted in 1541 by that monarch to Richard Callohill to hold *in capite* by knight's ſervice: after many alienations it ſettled in the Botelers of Teſton. At the death of Sir Philip Boteler, Bart., this manor, in the diviſion of his eſtates, fell to the ſhare of lady dowager Folkſtone, who dying in 1782, it came to her only ſon, the Hon. Philip Bouverie, who has taken the name of Puſey; this gentleman, ſo well known for his diſtinguiſhed virtues, now owns it.

Court barons are regularly held here, and the rolls are perfect ſince the year 1609-10. The court lodge near St. Helen's bridge, with its dove-cote, were ſtanding a few years ago; a ſmall cottage formed out of a part of one of the offices, only remains of the whole.

The other moiety of the eſtate was held by Roger de Kent; which family, after ſome deſcents, ſold it to the Freminghams, who by will gave it to the Pimpes; and from thence it went to the unfortunate Sir Henry Iſley, who diſgavelled, and afterwards loſt it by attainture; when queen Mary granted it *in capite* by knight's ſervice, to Sir John Baker, her attorney-general, one of whoſe deſcendants in Charles II.'s reign alienated it to Henry Golding, gent., who dying in 1674 deviſed it to Henry his eldeſt ſon and heir, who diſpoſed of this eſtate between the years 1696 and 1698 to Thomas Stringer, Eſq., who before 1699 ſold them to —— Spencer; he paſſed them away to the anceſtor of their preſent poſſeſſor John Amhurſt, gent. There is no manſion-houſe belonging to this eſtate; but there evidently has been one on the eaſt ſide of the cemetery. Before this eſtate came into queen Mary's hands, it was ſucceſſively held of the Clares earls of Clare, Glouceſter, and Hertford; the Staffords dukes of Buckingham, and the Rainsfords.

Hall-place, a reputed manor; the manſion, now little more than a cottage, was anciently of conſequence ſufficient to give name to the family of at-Halls, who before the end of Edward III.'s reign had diſpoſed of the greateſt part of the eſtate to the Colepepers, of Preſton, in Aylesford, and the remainder to the Clives, one of whom in the reign of Henry IV. alienated his ſhare to the Colepepers alſo, and the whole was ſoon after conveyed to Sampſon Maſcall, deſcended from thoſe of Maſcall, in Brenchley, in Suſſex. In the year 1656 the Rev. Richard Webbe, rector of the pariſh, purchaſed it, and built near the manor-houſe a handſome ſeat: his deſcendant in 1726 conveyed it to Peter Smart, gent., father of the poet, who died here; his widow and their children alienated it to the elegant and refined John Cale, Eſq. This gentleman left to Hertford college, Oxford, his fine library; 60*l.* to remove the books, and the intereſt of 1000*l.* Eaſt India annuities to a librarian; 200*l.*, the intereſt of which was to be laid out in bread and clothes for the poor of Barming: to the proteſtant ſchools in Ireland, 200*l.*: to the diſcharge of priſoners confined for ſmall debts, 200*l.*: to the ſociety for the relief of hurt and wounded ſeamen in the merchants' ſervice, 200*l.*—This learned and valuable man died in 1777, and left this eſtate to the heirs of the late Thomas Prowſe, of Axbridge, in Somerſetſhire, Eſq., who were the lady of Sir John Mordaunt, of Walton, in Warwickſhire, Bart., and her ſiſter: they united to convey theſe premiſes to John Amhurſt, gent., who immediately deſpoliated the fine plantations and gardens of all

all the exotic trees, ſhrubs, and flowers, and the ſeat has for ſome time been occupied by perſons one degree above cottagers; the conſequences may eaſily be judged.

Home-ſtall, a handſome modern ſeat, with about forty acres of land, was conveyed to captain Nicholas Amhurſt, in 1709, by —— Daves, Eſq. Mr. Amhurſt left it to his two ſons, Nicholas and Edward; they united to diſpoſe of it to James Allen, gent., the huſband of their ſiſter Jane; he built this ſeat about 1730, but ſold it ſoon after to Arthur Harris, Eſq., who deviſed it to Mrs. Alicia Harris, and at her death it came to their youngeſt brother Thomas Harris, Eſq.; he dying unmarried in 1769 left it to Mrs. Mary Dorman, a lady of moſt eſtimable character, who now reſides here. The remainder is limited by Mr. Harris's will to the family of Mumford, of Sutton-at-Hone.

There is another handſome ſeat, to which is annexed about the ſame quantity of land. It was in the preceding century the property of the Fletchers, the laſt of whom, after diſgracing himſelf by every worthleſs action, quitted this place, having ſold this eſtate to Thomas Whitacre, gent.; he deviſed it to his ſecond ſon John Whitacre, Eſq., who rebuilt the ſeat unfortunately upon the ancient ſcite; it ſhould have been ſet a little north, and fronting the beautiful valley below; at his death the reverſion veſted in his nephew, Thomas Whitacre, of Trotteſcliffe, Eſq. It is now occupied by William Roffe, gent.

In the village is a neat white houſe, built by the Rev. James Maſhborne, a former rector of this pariſh. The conveyance not having been executed by Mr. Fletcher, who had ſold the land, he took advantage of an act of Charles II., and obliged the unfortunate clergyman to repurchaſe the eſtate, and pay for the houſe he had built, which neceſſitated him to ſell the whole to Mr. Whitacre, whoſe tenant he continued until his death. His ſucceſſor, the Rev. Thomas Pickering, alſo reſided in this houſe during the whole of his incumbency.

There is another houſe upon Barming heath; the ground, with a conſiderable portion of land, chiefly in Maidſtone pariſh, was ſold by Mr. Fletcher to Mr. Samuel Steed, upon which the latter erected this houſe; but Fletcher having previouſly and clandeſtinely mortgaged it, Mr. Steed was obliged to pay off the incumbrance. He left it to his widow for life, the remainder to his niece Miſs Catherine Higgins; ſhe and her huſband alienated the eſtate to Mr. James Ferguſon, of the borough of Southwark, who has much improved, and now makes it his country reſidence.

Barming is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Malling. Its church,

dedicated to St. Margaret, is a ſmall Gothic ſtructure, extremely neat without; its elegant ſpire is the leading object around. The church-yard is emboſomed in fine elms, and the road from the ſtreet is peculiarly ſtriking and pleaſing. "The "preſent rector, about twelve years ago, at his own expenſe, entirely repaired and "ornamented the chancel; he gave alſo a new altar, pulpit-cloth, and cuſhion." There are no monuments within the church, but many in the cemetery: that erected over the remains of Thomas Harris, Eſq., of various coloured marbles, coſt near 300*l.*

This rectory, anciently in the patronage of the priory of Leeds, is now in the crown, and is valued in the king's books at 12*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, and charged with an yearly penſion of 2*s.* to the church of Rocheſter, once payable to Leeds priory. The glebe contains eighty-three acres. The parſonage-houſe, cloſe to the boundary of Maidſtone pariſh, and nearly one mile from the church, is delightfully ſituated upon the declivity of the hill, commanding an extenſive proſpect, and the land beautifully diſpoſed by the hand of nature. Mr. Webbe, rector of Barming, having been robbed, deſerted the houſe, and for nearly a century and an half it was occupied by farmers or cottagers. The preſent rector, the Rev. Mark Noble, F. A. S., well known for his various publications, reſides in, and has lately almoſt rebuilt it—"And by his judicious management and improvements," ſays Mr. Haſted, "he has made this benefice, perhaps, one of the moſt deſirable in the dioceſe." Not much leſs than 20,000 trees and ſhrubs have been planted by him upon the glebe.

There were formerly two croſſes in this pariſh; probably one erected by the priory of Leeds, the other by the nunnery of St. Helen's; the places where they ſtood ſtill retain the names of the upper croſs, and lower croſs; they were no doubt taken down at the Reformation. It is ſingular that the ſtones in which each of them were ſet remain near the places where they originally had been.

In the ſpring of 1797, in grubbing up an hedge in the lane, at a ſmall diſtance from the parſonage, were found ſeven Roman urns, buried near each other, and entire when found; but the workmen broke them, in hopes of finding ſomething valuable within; they contained a great quantity of human aſhes, which bore evident marks of fire. Some of the urns were black, like Wedgwood's ware, with rims, and of elegant workmanſhip; others were of a dull red earth: both had evidently been turned in a lathe. The workmen ſaid, that when entire they were

near

near two feet high, and, from the quantity of aſhes, they muſt have been large. There was part of a man's ſkull found near them, and a little farther off a great quantity of bones placed together, but without any urn; theſe immediately went to duſt when expoſed to the air. We agree with a gentleman who ſuppoſes that theſe remains point out that this was the Roman highway, which led to Oldborough, in Ightham.

About five or ſix years ago, in the next piece of ground to that part where theſe urns were diſcovered, vaſt numbers of the bones of men and horſes were diſturbed in digging for the quarry ſtone; they were laid in regular rows, and probably there are many more, as they ſtill continued to be ſeen as far as the earth was removed. Some of theſe carcaſes had been laid upon the bare rock; pieces of decayed leather were taken up, but nothing elſe; ſo that it cannot with certainty be adduced at what period the bodies of theſe perſons were laid here; yet as the leather was found with them, we cannot ſuppoſe it to have been ſo far back as the Roman period, and conſequently that they had no reference to the urns, though it is ſingular that they ſhould be ſo near to each other. It is evident the unfortunate fell in battle, by the horſes having been buried near them. As the Kentiſh men defended Eaſt Farleigh bridge in 1648 againſt general Fairfax, and many fell before they forced the paſſage in their way to Maidſtone, it is reaſonable to ſuppoſe that theſe unhappy men were victims to our domeſtic wars; this field being cloſe to a lane leading from the village of Barming to Eaſt Farleigh bridge confirms the conjecture: a gold ring of ancient make was found at no great diſtance. Part of a human ſkeleton was taken up in 1789 in altering the road at the weſt end of Barming-ſtreet, leading to Teſton, and nine bodies were diſcovered in Eaſt Farleigh, probably of fugitives after the ſkirmiſh at the bridge; a human ſkull was found, part of the ſkeleton of one of theſe fugitives.

Barming-heath is famed for its common camomile; and the great mullein grows higher there, and in all the eaſt part of the pariſh, than is known elſewhere; by cultivation it becomes a very beautiful plant. The wild honeyſuckle there twines round every buſh in a profuſion not to be imagined.

We ſhall quit this delightful and intereſting pariſh with obſerving, that the Rev. John Harris, afterward D. D., the author of a hiſtory of Kent, was ſome little time rector of Barming, but never reſided in, and ſoon reſigned it.

WEST BARMING, OR BARNJETT.

THIS diminutive diſtrict is variouſly written in ancient deeds, Weſt Barming, Baringjet alias Parinjet, an evident corruption for Barmingjet, as the Regiſtrum Roffenſe gives it; the Textus Roffenſis, Bearmlingetes. It ſeems a continuation of Barming, containing only the court-lodge and a cottage.

Ranulf de Columbels held "Bermelie" at the conqueſt under Odo biſhop of Bayeux; at his diſgrace it was given to the Crevequers, of whom the de Barmelinges held it; they paſſed it to the Freminghams, who deviſed it to the Pimpes; from whom coming to Sir Henry Iſley, he diſgavelled and loſt it by attainture; ſince it has been invariably united to the eſtate lying at the weſt part of Barming. John Amhurſt, gent., has altered, and reſides in the court-lodge. The place is capable of great improvement, and might, in the hands of taſte, add greatly to the ſurrounding ſcenery, the ſweep down to the Medway being fine.

Here was anciently an houſe of prayer; in the Textus Roffenſis it was called a chapel, and as ſuch paid chriſm rent to the mother church of the dioceſe, afterwards eſteemed a pariſh of itſelf; but incapable of ſupporting a rector in Henry VII.'s reign, it was annexed to Nettleſted, then alſo in the patronage of the Pimpes.

The rectors of Nettleſted are preſented, inducted, and inſtituted to Nettleſted, with the chapel of Barmingjett annexed, yet receive no emolument from the latter. The Hon. Philip-Bouverie Puſey has a ſmall eſtate in this now almoſt extra-parochial place, ſtill called the parſonage farm; he alſo claims a part of the manor.

The chapel of Barnjett ſtood near the court-lodge; a hay barn now marks the place. In the time of Lambarde it was deſecrated: after ſerving ſucceſſively as a dwelling, a carpenter's workſhop, and a kennel for dogs, it was taken down, and the ſtones conveyed to the end of Teſton bridge to raiſe the road. Its cemetery was excavated for quarry ſtone, until the labourers deſiſted from a ſenſe of decency, a commendable trait of character.

LARKFIELD HUNDRED.

THIS hundred lies to the north of Maidſtone. Its orthography is entirely changed. In Domeſday-book it is written Laurochesfel, ſince Laverkefeld. It contains the pariſhes of Allington, Ditton, Snodland, Padleſworth, Birling, Ryarſh,

Ryarſh, Leyborne, Eaſt Malling, Weſt Malling, Ofham, Addington, and Trotteſcliffe, on the weſt ſide the Medway; and Aylesford, Burham, and Woldham, on the eaſt of that river. Aylesford and Weſt Malling are exempt from the conſtables of Larkfield hundred; the former being ancient demeſne, the other a ſeparate liberty, has its own conſtable. Aylesford has a ſmall part within the hundred of Maidſtone. Hunton and Horſmonden have ſome parts of their pariſhes within this hundred.

ALLINGTON.

TO the north-weſt of Maidſtone, on the oppoſite bank of the Medway, is Allington, the Elentun of Domeſday-book. It is a very ſmall pariſh, and, except its caſtle, unintereſting.

It is moſt probable that the Anglo-Saxons, at an early period of their government, had a caſtle here; the original one was deſtroyed by the all-deſolating Danes. It became part of the domain of Ulnoth or Alnoth, fourth ſon of earl Godwin, and brother of Harold II., called in Domeſday-book, Cilt or illuſtrious. The Conqueror gave the caſtle to Odo biſhop of Bayeux; at his fall it was transferred to another relation, William earl of Warren, in Normandy, whom William II. created earl of Surry; he rebuilt the caſtle according to the improved taſte of the Normans.

This nobleman afterwards paſſed it to lord Fitz Hugh; his daughter married Sir Giles Allington, whoſe poſterity poſſeſſed it until the latter end of Henry III.'s reign, when Sir Stephen de Penchester, conſtable of Dover-caſtle, and warden of the cinque-ports, obtained it. Much attached to Allington, he ſued for, and obtained Edward I.'s grant of a weekly market, and an yearly fair for three days, on the vigil, the feaſt of St. Lawrence, and the day after; alſo free warren, and leave to embattle the caſtle. The additions he made were ſo great, that he is often called the founder, and from him it was frequently named Allington-Penchester.

At his death the caſtle was apportioned to Joan, the eldeſt of his two daughters and coheirs, who took it to the ſecond branch of the Cobhams, whence it acquired the name of Allington-Cobham. In Edward IV.'s reign it went to the Brents; they alienated it to the Wyats, famed for their abilities, power, and wealth.

They were originally of Yorkſhire. Sir Henry, who obtained Allington-caſtle, loſt ſeventeen manors and his liberty, for attempting to dethrone Richard III. in

favour of Henry earl of Richmond; tradition ſays he was fed by a cat whilſt in the Tower: the improbable tale is vouched for becauſe puſs is painted beſide her maſter, and ſometimes with a pigeon in her mouth:—had Richard wiſhed his death, a cat would not have ſaved him. Is it not meant as an allegory? Richard's miniſter, Cateſby, was called "the cat," in the well-known diſtich,

"The rat, the cat, and Lovel the dog,
Rule all England under an hog."

At the acceſſion of Henry VII. he was knighted, made a banneret, a knight of the Bath, and a privy counſellor; he continued in favour with Henry VIII. He left at his death an only ſon, Sir Thomas Wyat, whom Leland calls, "incompa-rabilis;" Wood, "the delight of the muſes:" as an accompliſhed ſcholar, gentleman, ſoldier, and ſtateſman, he had not his equal; no wonder he was admired by the faſcinating Ann Boleyn. Henry VIII. regarded him with jealouſy. Appointed again ambaſſador to Spain, he died when only thirty-eight, of a fever occaſioned by fatigue, at Falmouth, where he intended to embark. Allington owed much to his love, and the remains of his munificence ſtill appear.

His eldeſt ſon, Sir Thomas Wyat the younger, diſtinguiſhed as an ambaſſador, was learned and elegant, but raſh, vain, and imprudent, which led him into a rebellion that ruined him, and involved his family, friends, and dependants, in great misfortunes. At his attainture this caſtle came to the crown: Elizabeth gave a leaſe of the whole to John Aſtley, Eſq., maſter of her jewels; ſhe afterwards granted the caſtle, manor, and advowſon of the church to his ſon Sir John Aſtley, at an annual rent of 100*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* Sir John making Maidſtone palace his reſidence, deſerted and diſparked Allington, leaving it to moulder away. The Aſtleys diſpoſed of it in 1720 to the anceſtor of its preſent poſſeſſor, lord Romney.

This ruin, ſo near the river, which would make a fine object in the landſcape, is hidden by trees; the remains are extenſive; one of the round towers is very large; ſome parts are in good repair, and inhabited by an opulent farmer.

There are only two dwellings beſides the caſtle in the pariſh, and thoſe cottages.

Allington, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Malling, has a church dedicated to St. Laurence, one of the meaneſt in the county. This place, from its privacy, was celebrated for the number of its weddings, until the elder protector deprived the clergy of the celebration of that ceremony. In this neglected, ſequeſ-

tered

tered church reſt the remains of Sir Gyfford Thornhurſt, Bart., who died December 16, 1627; Sir George Choute, Bart., whoſe death happened in 1721-2; and Sir Edward Auſten, Bart., who died December 16, 1760. There are two of the rectors alſo buried here; and "*Rodolphus Mabbe, generoſus magiſter artium in "academia Cantab. clericus et vicarius eccleſiæ de Graine Sepultus fuit 28vo Auguſti,* "1649;" he was married here September 28, 1647, to Ann Barham, of Canterbury. In the church-yard is a memorial inſcribed, "Here lieth James Drayton, "apothecary, who died 9th September 1769, aged ſixty-eight. Pray diſturb not "the dead." Mr. Drayton was "a moſt ingenious perſon, and an excellent "botaniſt." The rectory, always in the patronage of the owners of the caſtle, is of the clear certified value of 35*l.*; divine ſervice is performed only once a month. The preſent rector is the Hon. and Rev. Jacob Marſham, D. D., deſervedly beloved by a moſt extenſive circle of friends.

DITTON.

TO the weſt of Allington is Ditton, anciently Dictune, i. e. dic, a dyke, and ton, the uſual termination of places. The London road to Maidſtone paſſes through this ſmall pariſh, chiefly conſiſting of woodland and hops; as does a ſtream, which finds its courſe to the Medway. There are only fourteen houſes in Ditton.

The manors of Ditton, Brampton, and Siftlington, after being held by different poſſeſſors, at length ſettled in the family of Aldon, and were never again disjointed. Henry VIII. obtaining them by exchange they came to Sir Thomas Wrythe, or Wriotheſley, earl of Southampton, and by ſale to Sir Robert Southwell and Sir Thomas Pope, all conſpicuous characters. In James I.'s reign they ſettled in the Boteler family, from whom they came to lady Folkſtone, who left them to her only ſon, the Hon. Philip Bouverie, now Puſey.

Borough, more properly Brooke court, at the north extremity of the pariſh, has belonged to the Colepepers, Shakerleys, and other families, and ſince the reign of Charles II. to the anceſtor of the preſent poſſeſſor, Sir John-Papillon Twiſden, of Bradborne, Bart., who holds a court baron for this manor.

Ditton-place, a manſion where the Brewer family reſided from early in James I.'s reign, until the beginning of this century, when it paſſed to the Goldings, the

preſent owners. The large old ſeat of brick betrays ſymptoms of approaching ruin: the ſituation is very ill choſen.

This pariſh, in Rocheſter dioceſe, and Malling deanry, has a ſmall church dedicated to St. Peter. Upon a braſs plate in the chancel is, "*Orate p. aīa magiſt.* "*Richardi legatte qui obiit Anno Dn̄i M°cccc°lxxx i° die men. Junij.*" Beneath the effigies of a man in armour, upon another grave-ſtone near it, on a braſs plate is, "Heare lyethe the boodye of Rowland Shakerley, gent., ſonne and heire "of Franncys Shakerley, of Brooke-courte, within the paryſhe of Ditton, Eſquyer, "whiche Rowland beynge fellowe of Grayes Inne, deceaſed, the xxii of June, in "the year of our Lord 1576, and had this memoryall of his deathe made by a "yon̄g gentlewoman as an argument of her inſeparable good meaning towards "him." Another plate is loſt; probably it contained poetry. There are many memorials of the Brewer family in the church.

The patronage, anciently in the priory of Leeds, is now veſted in the earl of Aylesford. The rectory, valued in the king's books at 11*l.* 15*s.*, pays 2*s.* to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter. The ruins of the parſonage-houſe are ſtill viſible; it was burnt ſome years ago. The late incumbent was the Rev. Samuel Biſhop, the poetic head-maſter of Merchant Taylors' ſchool; the preſent one is the Rev. Richard Warde, vicar of Yalding.

This pariſh, as well as the three next deſcribed, anciently contributed towards the repair of the fifth pier of Rocheſter bridge. The beautiful mountain-aſh is found in great profuſion in Ditton woods.

SNODLAND.

TO the north of Ditton is Snodland; in Domeſday-book written Eſnoiland; in the Textus Roffenſis, Snoddingland and Snodiland. It is little known, and leſs valued as a reſidence, being low, retired, and gloomy; unwholeſome, from its ſalt marſhes, and ſterile, from its chalk-flinty hills. The great road from Stroud to Larkfield paſſes through the village. On the ſouth is a ſtream, which coming from Berling turns a paper-mill; at the Conqueſt there were three mills. Another brook riſes near Mr. May's houſe, and running half a mile, glides into the Medway.

The manor of Snodland was given by Birtrick, an Anglo-Saxon gentleman, to the

the priory of St. Andrew, in Rocheſter. The quantity and value of the land ſpecified in a taxation made in the prelacy of Gundulph, who ſat from 1077 to 1107, when it became the property of the ſee of Rocheſter, is ſtated thus:—Holeberge, now Hollorow, dependent upon the manor of Halling, contained 197 acres of arable land, valued at 4*d.* per acre at moſt, having no marle; fourteen acres of meadow, ſix of ſalt paſture, three lately made freſh, each at 8*d.* per acre; and the mill at 20*s.* Hamo Noble, called de Hythe, the munificent biſhop of Rocheſter, in 1323 rebuilt the mill at Holbergh, with timber brought from Perſtede at the expenſe of 10*l.* The biſhops of Rocheſter, we may ſuppoſe, reſided here, having then a park at Snodland.

The court-lodge was long the reſidence of the Palmers, one of whom married the daughter of Fitzſimond, whoſe epitaph was—

"Palmers al our faders were
I, a Palmer, livyd here,
And travylled till worne wythe age,
I endyd this worlds pylgramage;
On the blyſt Aſſention day.
In the cherful month of May,
A thouſand wyth foure hundryd ſeven,
And took my jorney henſe to Heven."

The Palmers bore in their arms palmers' or pilgrims' ſcrips. Mr. John May, the preſent owner, reſides in a handſome new-built houſe.

Veles alias Snodland, in the reign of Edward I. was held as half a knight's fee of the ſee of Rocheſter, by ſeveral families as coparceners; at length it became united, and paſſing through many families ſettled in that of May.

Holloway-court gave name and reſidence to a family, many of whom are buried in this church. The Tilghams were in poſſeſſion of it in Henry IV.'s reign, and a part of the eſtate remained with them until 1680, when the anceſtor of lord Romney purchaſed it: the other diviſion belongs to Mr. May.

This pariſh is in the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter. Its ſmall mean church, dedicated to All Saints, as an appendant to the manor, is in the gift of the ſee of Rocheſter, and valued in the king's books at 20*l.* The Rev. Henry Wollaſton is rector.

Notwithſtanding the preſent appearance of Snodland, in ancient times it was very important. The hamlet of Holborow or Holborough, in the north part of the

pariſh, receives its name from having been the paſſage of the Romans to Scarborough on the oppoſite bank. An urn filled with aſhes was found in digging chalk.

Sir John Marſham, Bart., and Sir Charles Bickerſtaff, in the reign of James II., intending to ſupply the towns of Stroud, Rocheſter, and Chatham, with freſh water from Holborough-hill and its vicinity, cut a channel through Halling and Cuxton: difficulties ariſing after having taken it two miles, an act was procured, enabling them to purſue their ſcheme; but ſoon after it was abandoned, though promiſing much advantage to them, and thoſe for whoſe uſe the waters were intended.

PADLESWORTH, NEAR SNODLAND.

THIS ſmall diſtrict, uſually denominated Paulsford, to the weſt of Snodland, is written Pelleſorde in Domeſday-book, and Pædleſwrtha in the Textus Roffenſis. It has nothing to arreſt the traveller's attention, the chalky ſoil being barren.

Godric held it before Hugo de Port; after the Conqueſt the manor was in Henry III.'s reign divided into ſhares, in which ſituation it long remained. Lord Romney holds it of the manor of Swanſcombe, owing guard rent to the caſtle of Rocheſter. The court-lodge ſtands near the church.

Padleſworth, in Rocheſter dioceſe, and deanry of Malling, once eſteemed a chapel of eaſe to Birling, is valued in the king's books at *3l. 6s. 8d.*; the patronage always attended the manor. The remains of the church, built with flint and aſhler quoin-ſtones, are now uſed as a barn.

BIRLING.

TO the ſouth-weſt of Padleſworth is Birling, about three miles ſquare, having chalk and flints towards the hills, ſandy but fertile in the ſouth, which lies low. The pariſh, detached and ſequeſtered, was long the reſidence of thoſe great barons the Nevils, lords Abergavenny.

In Edward the Confeſſor's time Sbernbiga held it: in the reign of William I. Ralph de Curva Spina, corruptly Curbeſpine, who building a ſeat in the north part of the pariſh, made it his reſidence, anciently Comport, now Comfort park. This family, in Henry II.'s reign, was ſucceeded by Walkelin de Magminot, whoſe ſiſter Alice took it to the de Says, afterwards barons; from them it came, with the title,

title, to the Herons, and the Clintons, afterwards ſtyled lord Clinton and Say; by other females to that branch of the great Nevil family, who have been long barons, and are now earls of Abergavenny. Sir George Nevil lord Abergavenny, by his will dated June 4, 1535, expreſſing a deſire to be buried here, the chancel of Birling became the dormitory of theſe noblemen. The laſt of them buried here was George lord Abergavenny, who died in 1666. The title then going to another branch, who retaining their partiality to their ſeat of Kidbrooke, near Eaſt Grinſtead, in Suſſex, Birling was deſerted by its lords. Yet in remembrance of this ſeat of their anceſtors, the late nobleman choſe the title of viſcount Nevil, of Birling, in Kent, making it ſecond only to that of Abergavenny, now an earldom. In the pariſh regiſter is one item of this branch of the family—"1727 the Right Honourable "George Nevill lord Abergavenny, was born June 24, 1727; his majeſty king "George the Second, his grace Lionel duke of Dorſet, and her grace the dutcheſs "of Newcaſtle, being ſponſors." The old ſeat of Comfort, long neglected, is diſparked, and reduced to a farm-houſe.

Birling, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter and deanry of Malling, has a very ſpacious, fine, Gothic church, dedicated to All Saints. Though ſo many of the illuſtrious Nevils lie in the chancel, there is not a ſingle memorial of them, except one or two old helmets, and the irons upon which were placed guidons, and other funereal appendages. The very ſpacious chancel, larger than many churches, is well adapted for the reception of the ſuperb monuments of the great. There is a fine braſs effigy of one of their ſervants in the ſouth aiſle, inſcribed, "Of your charite pray for the ſoule of Water Mylys, ſum tyme Reſeyvor vnto "my lord of Burgvenniey the whyche deceſyd the xv day of Marche." Many gentry are mentioned in the regiſters, who probably were viſitants at Comfort. The only monument is a mural one in the church, "To the memory of the Rev. "*Edward Holme*, late vicar of this pariſh, and founder of the two free ſchools of "*Leybourne* and *Eaſt Malling* in this county, who departed this life on the 7th "day of January 1782, aged ſeventy-one years. Nanny Holme, daughter of the "above *Edward Holme:* ſhe died the 1ſt of January 1789, aged twenty-one years." The widow of this clergyman ſtill reſides in the vicarage-houſe.

This church, given to the priory of Bermondſey, at the diſſolution of monaſtic inſtitutions, was granted to the Nevils, anceſtors of the earl of Abergavenny, who poſſeſſes the rectorial glebe and great tithes, with the patronage of the vicarage, valued

valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.* The preſent incumbent is the Rev. William Humphry, who alſo holds Kempſing and Seal, both in Kent. The people here and in the vicinity ſtill remember the prodigious ſtrength of Mr. Hugh Pugh, a native of Wales, the preceding vicar to Mr. Holme.

In Oxfield, adjoining to the cemetery, in plowing, many foundations have, and ſtill continue to be diſcovered; but no conjecture is hazarded of what buildings they are the ſcite.

RYARSH.

RYARSH, pronounced Raſh, is ſouth of Birling; Domeſday-book calls it Rieſce, the Textus Roffenſis, Reierſce. No place in Kent is leſs known or frequented; it is a ſandy, ſterile ſoil, but not unhealthy. The pariſh is long and narrow, without a ſingle object to attract attention, though it has two villages, each bearing the ſame name.

Ryarſh was the eſtate of Alured in Edward the Confeſſor's reign; William the Norman gave it to his half-brother biſhop Odo, of whom Hugh de Port held it; after the diſgrace of that turbulent prelate it was granted to the family of Creſcie. In Henry III.'s reign it went from them to the de Mowbrays: though the firſt of them was executed for treaſon, yet his deſcendants were reſtored in blood, enriched and ennobled, ſucceſſively riſing from barons Mowbray to earls of Nottingham and dukes of Norfolk, and hereditary earls marſhal: at the failure of heirs male Ryarſh was conveyed to the anceſtor of the earl of Abergavenny, who holds it of the manor of Swanſcombe, by the tenure of contributing towards the guard of Rocheſter caſtle.

Carew's-court, now Callis-court, was the manor of the Carews of Beddington, in Surrey, until Nicholas Carew ſold it to the Wattons, and they to the Walſinghams; from which family it paſſed by marriage to Sir Edward Auſten, Bart., who deviſed it to John Amhurſt, late of Boxley-abbey; and at his diſeaſe, by virtue of the entail, it is become the property of captain John-Thomas Amhurſt, and the family of Allen.

The manor of Halling, belonging to the ſee of Rocheſter, extended into this pariſh, where the biſhops had a grange or farm-houſe.

Ryarſh, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Malling, has a ſmall, mean church,

church, originally dedicated to St. Lambert; in 1448 St. Martin was made the patron. The patronage is in the Bartholomews of Addington. This diſcharged vicarage is of the clear yearly certified value of 40*l.* The Rev. James Thurſton, A. M., is the incumbent.

LEYBORNE.

THE next pariſh to the north of Ryaſh is Leyborne, anciently Leleburne and Lilleborn, derived from lytlan, ſmall; borne, brook; the ſtream which gives it name running along the ſouth and eaſt ſides of it, and turning Leyborne mill. Though low, it is pleaſanter than the neighbouring pariſhes, and fertile to a proverb, yet has only a few detached houſes.

Turgis under earl Godwin was proprietor of Leyborne; at the Conqueſt Adam held it under biſhop Odo; from him paſſing to the crown it was given to the de Arſicks. A family next poſſeſſed the manor, who making this their ſeat, called themſelves de Leyborne, and became of importance in this county. William de Leyborne, admiral, and conſtable of Pavenſey-caſtle, entertained Edward I. at this his caſtellated manſion. Thomas his ſon and heir died before him, leaving Juliana, an only daughter, heireſs alſo to her grandfather; the eſtates ſhe inherited were ſo great, that ſhe was ſtyled Infanta of Kent. The whole of thoſe rich poſſeſſions went to her three huſbands—John de Haſtings, Thomas le Blount, and Sir William de Clinton, a younger ſon of the Clintons, of Maxtoke-caſtle, in Warwickſhire; he roſe to the greateſt honours and employments, Edward III. creating him a baron by writ, earl of Huntingdon by patent, governor of Dover caſtle, warden of the cinque ports, and admiral of the ſeas from the entrance of the Thames weſtward; he was buried in the priory of Maxtoke, his foundation. Juliana ſurviving him, became a fourth time poſſeſſed of this manor, caſtle, and its demeſnes, which ſhe held until her death: her remains were buried, by her own requeſt, in the church of St. Auguſtine, in Canterbury.

It is remarkable that a lady ſo greatly deſcended ſhould have her eſtates eſcheat to the crown, no one being able to claim them either by direct deſcent, or by collateral alliance. The manor, caſtle, and advowſon of Leyborne, by the piety of Edward III. and Richard II., became the property of the Ciſtertian monaſtery of St. Mary Graces, near the Tower. At the diſſolution the two former were granted for other eſtates to the ſee of Canterbury: ſoon after Henry VIII. again obtained,

and

and exchanged them with the advowſon, to Sir Edward North, a privy counſellor: ſince that time they have been poſſeſſed by ſeveral families. The Whitworths ſold them to the father of their preſent owner, Sir Henry Hawley, Bart.

Leyborne caſtle is in part remaining: a modern houſe, once the reſidence of the Goldings, now a farm-houſe, is built within the caſtle walls, making a very ſingular appearance. The ſtone work at the chief entrance, with much of the circular towers on each ſide, and ſome detached parts of arches and walls, are viſible: above the gate appears a machicolation, a contrivance to throw ſtones, boiling water, or melted lead, upon the heads of the beſiegers. The writer has more than once traced its circumference, and from its remains, eſpecially its ditch, decides, with Mr. Haſted, that it never could have been of the great extent another writer thinks. Mr. Ireland has made a very elegant and pictureſque engraving of it—a difficult circumſtance, where modern and antique unite: nothing can be more diſguſtful than to ſee a new-built houſe ſituated amidſt the ruins of former ages, where the ancient makes ſo great a contraſt: nothing is more oppoſite than the ſnug box, and the huge, maſſive, fortified reſidences of our valiant anceſtors: it is like attempting to unite the elegantly ſlight ornament with the rich cumbrous dreſs of diſtant ages. The manor of Leyborne pays to the crown a fee-farm rent of *1l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, and ſtill has its courts leet and baron.

The Grange, a manſion of the family of Quintin, who ſo early as the former part of the ſixteenth century took the name of Oliver, which alone diſtinguiſhes them in the pariſh regiſter; probably in deeds it was written Oliver alias Quintin. The firſt who ſettled here was William Oliver, Eſq.; he died in 1561: this ſeat went to his ſon William, his grandſon Robert, and great grandſon Robert Oliver, Eſq., who was buried in the chancel of Leyborne with his anceſtors: by Julian his wife he had ten children—Robert, who died an infant; another Robert, buried here November 4, 1656, called in the regiſter, "the eldeſt and moſt accompliſhed ſon "of Mr. Robert Oliver;" Thomas Oliver, Eſq., died in 1678; Barnham Oliver, in 1670: Mary, Elizabeth, Judith, and Jane; the firſt died ſingle, the ſecond a child; of the other two no notice is taken: two others married, Julian to Edward Covert, gent.; and Frances to Mr. John Stoell, of Rocheſter; Julian, or, as Mr. Haſted calls her, Juliana, became, he ſays, ſole heireſs of the Grange. As the circumſtance is curious, we ſhall tranſcribe the copy of the regiſter of her marriage, performed by the civil magiſtrate—"An intention of marriage betwixt Mr. Edward

" Covert, and Mrs. Julian Oliver, both of this pariſh, was publiſhed three lords " dayes, vid. the firſt day of November, the 8 of the ſame month, and the 15th " of the ſame, after divine ſervice, and no exception made thereunto: in witneſſe " whereof I have ſubſcribed, John Cood, regiſter of the pariſh of Leybourne. " The aforeſayd marriage was ſolemnized before me, in the preſence of Robert " Olyver, Eſq., father of the ſaid Julian, and John Covert, brother unto the ſayd " Edward, and Barnha" Oliver, brother of the ſayd Julian, uppon the 16th day of " December, 1656. William James." The iſſue of this marriage was an only daughter, who in like manner took the Grange to Henry Saxby; their ſon, captain William Saxby, made it his reſidence; but in 1724 ſold it, with the manor and caſtle, to Francis Whitworth, Eſq., who rebuilt the Grange in a very elegant manner, and laid out the grounds in the modern taſte: he died in 1742, and was ſucceeded by his only ſon and heir, Sir Charles Whitworth, lieutenant-governor of Graveſend and Tilbury fort, father of Sir Charles Whitworth, knight of the Bath, envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary at the court of Ruſſia, who joining in the ſale of the whole family eſtates in this pariſh, under ſanction of an act of parliament, conveyed them in 1776 to James Hawley, Eſq., M. D. and F. R. S.: he died in 1777, leaving this ſeat, manor, caſtle, and advowſon, to his only ſon, now Sir Henry Hawley, Bart., having been ſo created by his preſent majeſty. Few unite greater good ſenſe, elegance of manners, and urbanity, than Sir Henry: he is maternal nephew to the learned and ſcientific Sir Joſeph Banks, Bart., knight of the Bath.

Leyborne is within the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Malling. Its ſmall church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a very neat ſtructure, both within and without; the place of ſepulture of the Olivers, Saxbys, Whitworths, and Hawleys. It once belonged to the abbey of St. Mary Grace, near the Tower; but ſince the Reformation has gone with the manor and caſtle. It is a rectory, valued in the king's books at 17*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and poſſeſſing, beſides its proper glebe, an eſtate of 130 acres of land, lying at Comp, in Wrotham pariſh, where the ruins of a chapel ſtill remain. The value of the rectory is 300*l.* The preſent incumbent is the Rev. George Barvill, A. M., who has placed elegant painted glaſs in ſome of the windows; they came from a chapel belonging to lord Petre. The parſonage-houſe is in a very low, unwholeſome ſituation, near the church.

The free-ſchool, erected and endowed by the Rev. Edward Holme, of Birling,

educates ten poor boys, and an equal number of girls, natives of this pariſh and Ryarſh, and five from each of thoſe of Weſt and Eaſt Malling; they remain here until they are fourteen years of age. A ſalary of 30*l.* is paid to the maſter.

This pariſh was one of thoſe which formerly contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rocheſter bridge.

No place is better adapted than this for the growth of hops, as may be evinced from this extraordinary circumſtance—one of Sir Henry Hawley's cottagers, in 1784, from half an acre of land grew forty-five hundred of hops, which he ſold for 145*l.*

EAST MALLING.

THE pariſh of Eaſt Malling joins Leyborne; it is written in Domeſday-book, Metlinges; in the Textus Roffenſis, Meallinges. Few places are more delightful than Eaſt Malling; rich in all the productions of the beſt part of Kent, and finely diverſified in its ſcenery. The Medway glides through it, the banks of which are richly clothed with young oaks. It is ſo extenſive and populous, that, were the houſes formed into ſtreets, it would make a larger place than Weſt or Town Malling. Beſides its own particular village there are ſeveral hamlets; Larkfield-ſtreet, one of them, from whence the hundred has its name, has a fair held on St. James's day; New Hythe, lying cloſe to the Medway, where much buſineſs is done, and ſtone and other articles, brought from the lower parts of the river, are reloaded in larger veſſels. The juriſdiction of the corporation of Maidſtone extends to New Hythe, where a chapel once ſtood. At the ſuppreſſion it was given to Hugh Cartwright, of Eaſt Malling, gent. Prayers were daily performed; now religious worſhip is greatly neglected. Had the pious young monarch, Edward VI., known of how much uſe a chapel would have been to theſe poor people, who reſide ſo far from their mother church, where from the badneſs of the roads in the winter time it is impoſſible to attend, he would not have left the inhabitants without the means of inſtruction. And Mill-ſtreet, another hamlet, ſo denominated from a corn-mill. The London road goes through this pariſh. On the heath are kilns, where many of the bricks and tiles uſed in the neighbourhood are burnt.

The manor of Eaſt Malling was in the Anglo-Saxon times veſted in the primates of Canterbury, until Anſelm, one of them, gave it to the nunnery of Weſt Malling. Henry VIII., at its diſſolution, exchanged it with archbiſhop Cranmer; queen

queen Elizabeth having obtained, granted it for a term of years to Sir Henry Brooke alias Cobham, knt., a younger ſon of George lord Cobham; he paſſed it to Pierpoint; Hugh Cartwright, Eſq., next poſſeſſed the manor, and left it to Jane his widow, "one of the ſeventeen daughters of Sir John Newton." Her ſecond huſband, Sir James Fitzjames, ſold it to Humphry Delind, and he to Sir Robert Brett. The term expiring, James I. granted, and Charles I. confirmed this manor in fee to Sir John Rayney, of Wrotham, created in 1641 a baronet of Nova Scotia; Sir John his ſon about 1657 alienated the manor to ſergeant, afterwards judge Twiſden, whoſe deſcendant, Sir John-Papillon Twiſden, Bart., ſtill owns, and holds courts leet and baron for the manor.

Bradbourn, an ancient ſeat, and once a manor, belonged to the Iſley family, until Sir Henry Iſley exchanged it with Henry VIII. The Marminghams diſpoſed of it in 1656 to Thomas Twiſden, Eſq., ſergeant, afterwards judge Twiſden, created by Charles II. a knight and baronet, who ſat with the greateſt credit to himſelf and advantage to the ſtate, upon the bench for eighteen years, and during the moſt troubleſome and trying times, both during the uſurpation of the commonwealth, the protectorates, and the important period of the reſtoration. This venerable judge changed the orthography of his name from Twyſden to Twiſden, to diſtinguiſh his branch from the elder one. Extremely partial to this ſpot, he improved the ſeat, and obtained leave to impark the ſurrounding lands: he died here in 1666, aged eighty-one years. There are ſome fine portraits remaining of him, taken at a very advanced age, in his robes. He married Jane, daughter of John Tomlinſon, of Whitby, in Yorkſhire, Eſq., and ſiſter, and one of the three coheirs of Matthew Tomlinſon, knighted by Henry Cromwell, when governor of Ireland, whoſe life was with difficulty ſaved at the Reſtoration, being one of Charles I.'s pretended judges, and who guarded him during his trial. Sir Roger Twiſden, Bart., his great grandſon, ſo highly improved Bradbourn, that it is become one of the moſt charming reſidences in this part of Kent. Sir Roger died in 1772, greatly lamented both in his public and private character, leaving Sir Roger Twiſden, Bart., who dying without iſſue male, the title came to his brother Sir John-Papillon Twiſden, Bart.

This pariſh, a peculiar of Canterbury, is in the dioceſe of Rocheſter, and deanry of Shoreham. Its church, dedicated to St. James, is a very large Gothic building, with much painted glaſs in the windows; the great tithes belonged to the priory of

the other Malling. The vicarage, in the gift of Sir John-Papillon Twiſden, Bart., is valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* The preſent incumbent is the venerable and Rev. Daniel Hill, A. M., and rector of Addington.

At the entrance of Eaſt Malling heath is a tumulus, ſuppoſed to be Roman, the only thing memorable of that kind within the pariſh.

WEST, OR TOWN MALLING.

THE ſituation of this pariſh is evident from its name; though now uſually called Town Malling. It was ſome time after the Norman conqueſt denominated Malling Parva; but ſo greatly is it changed, that the village has become a handſome, conſiderable, and pleaſant town, where many gentry reſide. The water here, remarkably good, is in ſuch profuſion as to form a rivulet at the end of the place. The town and pariſh is governed by its two conſtables choſen annually, except the borough of St. Leonard, which is under the juriſdiction of Larkfield hundred. They have a Saturday's market, and three fairs, held on Auguſt 12, October 2, and Nov. 17, for horſes, cattle, toys, &c.

Malling was raiſed to conſequence by its once famous nunnery. The Anglo-Saxon monarch Edmund, in the year 945, gave to Burhic biſhop of Rocheſter three plough lands, to augment the revenues of the monaſtery of St. Andrew, for which they were to pray for the ſoul of the royal donor. The grant ſigned by Edmund was witneſſed by Edred his ſucceſſor, Edgiva their mother, the archbiſhops, biſhops, and Ælgifu the king's concubine, followed by dukes, and other great laymen. The circumſtance of Ælgifu's ſignature is remarkable. Elfgine his queen, whoſe piety, prudence, and diſcretion procured her a place in the Roman calendar, ſeemed a far more ſuitable witneſs to ſuch a tranſaction.

This eſtate, during the ravages of the Danes, was loſt to the ſee of Rocheſter. William I. gave it to Odo, the powerful biſhop of Bayeux; but it was reclaimed from that rapacious prelate by archbiſhop Lanfranc, who reſtored it and the church of Malling to Gundulph biſhop of Rocheſter. Gundulph, with more zeal than prudence, deprived his ſee of the manor and church of Eaſt Malling, giving them to the endowment of an abbey of Benedictine nuns, which he founded in 1090 to the honour of the Virgin Mary. The monaſtery ſoon grew into great power. Henry III. gave the nuns a weekly market on Saturdays and Wedneſdays, and free

warren, with fairs on the eve, day, and morrow of St. Matthew the apoſtle; on the eve and feſtival of St. Leonard; and on the eve and feſtival of St. Peter *ad vincula*.

Theſe advantages were given to reſtore the nunnery from the devaſtation of a fire, which, in the preceding reign, deſtroyed it and the village. The ſurrounding country flocked thither; from a deſolated waſte it became a village, from theſe a town, from Malling Parva, Town Malling, a place of conſiderable trade.

This religious community was peculiarly unfortunate in their abbeſſes often bringing it into diſgrace. A peſtilential fever in 1348 threatened the lives of all the profeſſed. Margaret Vernon, lady abbeſs, ſurrendering it to Henry VIII., ſhe received an annuity of 40*l.*, and to her eleven nuns, from 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, very ſlender ſtipends, conſidering the annual value of the nunnery was 245*l.* 10*s.* 2½*d.*, and the clear rental 218*l.* 4*s.* 2½*d.* Women, inſtead of vows of chaſtity, ought to marry, being never ſo reſpectable as matrons; but theſe nuns ought not to have been diſpoſſeſſed; but if they choſe, to remain profeſſed, to have retained their poſſeſſions until their deaths. Had this wiſe and humane method been adopted towards the religious of both ſexes, we ſhould never have had all thoſe dreadful inhuman executions that diſgrace Henry VIII.'s latter days, and ſtain his name ſo deep as a cruel, ſanguinary ſovereign. The abbeſs paid a ſingular acknowledgment of ſubjection to the ſee of Rocheſter; ſending the prelates of that dioceſe annually ten pounds of wax and a boar.

Henry VIII. by grant and exchange paſſed the abbey to archbiſhop Cranmer; it went from the metropolitans again to the crown. Elizabeth gave a leaſe of it for a long term to Sir Henry Brooke lord Cobham, and it followed the ſame deſcents as have been mentioned in ſpeaking of the manor of Eaſt Malling, until the younger Sir John Rayney, Bart., conveyed theſe premiſes about the time of the Reſtoration to Iſaac Honeywood, of Hampſted, Middleſex, gent.

His grandſon, Frazer Honeywood, Eſq., rebuilt the abbey-houſe of Malling in the Gothic ſtyle, making it, at a very great expenſe, a ſuitable reſidence; dying in 1764 without iſſue, he deviſed this ſeat to the baronets of his name and family. The late Mr. Foote died here, and it is now occupied by his ſon, George-Talbot-Hatley Foote, Eſq., in whom benevolence, learning, and taſte unite.

This abbey has been traced, by its foundations, to have conſiſted of two quadrangles, with cloiſters, and a ſpacious hall. The church had two towers; there is

a fine

a fine one remaining. To the ſouth was the cemetery, where ſtone coffins, ornamented with croſſes, have been found, with rings and trinkets. The grand gateway, ſtanding at the weſt end of the precinct of the abbey, has upon it a heart guttee, and a ſhield ermine, a crozier in bend ſiniſter, on a chief three annulets; this latter might have been the arms of the nunnery: the fiſh-ponds may be very plainly traced. There runs a fine clear ſtream through an opening in the wall near the modern houſe, forming a caſcade; paſſing the road, it finds a way to the gardens of the Rev. Mr. Brooke.

St. Clement's, in Ewell, was once a manor, held as half a knight's fee, under the ſee of Rocheſter, by the de Say and the at-Forde families, in ancient times, and the Coveneys in the reign of Henry VIII.: it now belongs to Mr. William Fowle, but the ſcite of the manſion is unknown.

Here are ſeveral handſome houſes—that of the Rev. John-Kenward Shaw, who has taken the ſurname of Brooke, is by the abbey-gate: Thomas-Auguſtus Douce, Eſq., reſides in one near the church; the Hon. admiral John Forbes had another in St. Leonard's-ſtreet, ſince purchaſed by Mr. Douce, but the reſidence of the widow of the late governor Wynch: New Barne, the ſeat of Mr. Graham, occupied by Mr. Taylor, is in the vicinity of the town.

Town Malling is in the ſame eccleſiaſtical juriſdiction as Eaſt Malling.

The body of the church is a modern, neat building, dedicated to St. Mary. The patronage of the vicarage, once in the abbeſs and convent, now in the Twiſdens, of Bradbourn, is valued in the king's books at 10*l.* The preſent incumbent is the Rev. Richard Huſband.

Before the Reformation a cell belonged to the abbey with a chapel. The tower ſtill ſtanding is now a ſtowage for hops.

It is ſuppoſed the military way of the Romans paſſed through this pariſh.

O F H A M.

TO the weſt of Town Malling is Ofham, the Offaham of the Anglo-Saxons, a name taken from having once belonged to the royal Mercian Offa; and lying upon the Roman military way, it might have been more ancient. It is now mean, lonely, gloomy, little known even to the ſurrounding peaſantry. The village, ſcattered upon an high broad green, is ſurrounded with woods, which ſeem to encloſe it.

On

On this green is a quintin, a machine at which youths uſed to ſhow their dexterity on horſeback. The quintin, borrowed from the Romans, is compoſed of an upright with a croſs, one bar of which has holes, to the other is faſtened a bag of ſand; the former being ſtruck, the other gave the perſon who ſtruck it a violent blow, unleſs he uſed the greateſt expedition; the unhappy wight who received a blow from the ſand-bag was derided: he who broke the board had as much honour as the other ſcorn.

The church of Canterbury, at the ſolicitation of archbiſhop Ceolnoth, obtained in 832 from Ethelwulf, ſon of the monarch Egbert, Ofnehamme, but loſt it in the ſubſequent devaſtations of the Danes. It was given to Odo biſhop of Bayeux at the Conqueſt, afterwards to the de Ofhams. After a variety of tranſitions, it was purchaſed by the anceſtors of its preſent right honourable poſſeſſor, the earl of Thanet, who holds a court for this manor, but pays a fee-farm rent of 2*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* to the crown. The court-lodge is on the north of the village.

Godwell, once a part of the manor of Ofham, but long ſeparated from it, has in like manner paſſed through a variety of owners, until it has now ſettled in the perſon of Mrs. Elizabeth Knell, and ſhe likewiſe holds a court for the manor.

This pariſh is in the ſame dioceſe and deanry as the former. Its church, a Gothic ſtructure, is dedicated to St. Michael. This diſcharged living is in the gift of the crown, and of the certified value of 40*l.* The Rev. John Liptrott is rector. Ofham anciently contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rocheſter bridge.

Tradition ſays that Jack Straw, the principal partiſan of the more infamous Wat Tyler, was a native of Pepingſtraw, in this pariſh, and from thence obtained his name. Places often contend for the honour of giving birth to ſages; few will ſtrive to deprive Pepingſtraw of all the credit to be gained by Straw's nativity.

ADDINGTON.

TO the north of Ofham is Addington, the Eddingtune of Domeſday-book, from Edda the Saxon owner. It is poor in ſoil, but the church being placed on an eminence, a little diſtance from the London road, makes, with the large manſion near it, a pleaſing object. A ſtream paſſes through the pariſh, which, though riſing at Nepecker, in Wrotham, is called Addington brook. Here is an Eelbourn or Nailbourn, a water breaking out every ſeven or eight years with ſo great rapidity

rapidity as to have a trench dug to conduct it into the Leyborne rivulet; the trout are changed by it from a white to a red colour.

After the Conqueſt this ſmall pariſh was poſſeſſed by Odo biſhop of Bayeux: through females of the Charles's, Snayths, and Wattons, it has come to the preſent owner Leonard Bartholomew, Eſq., whoſe only child, married to the hon. captain John Wingfield, brother to lord viſcount Powerſcourt, will probably take the eſtate into that family. Courts leet and baron are held for this manor, which is ſubordinate to that of Swanſcombe, and as ſuch guard duty was due to Rocheſter caſtle.

The ſmall church, with a lofty tower, dedicated to St. Margaret, is in the ſame dioceſe and deanry as the preceding pariſhes. The age of our Gothic edifices can ſeldom be accurately aſcertained: an inſcription upon one of its walls preciſely determines the date of this church—

> "In fourteen hundred and none,
> Here was neither ſtick nor ſtone;
> In fourteen hundred and three,
> The goodly building which you ſee."

There is a handſome marble pyramidical monument near a yew-tree, in the cemetery, which has a very good effect from the London road.

The rectory, an appendant upon the manor, is valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, with a penſion of 5*s.* to the priory of Rocheſter, now paid to the dean and chapter of that ſee; the vicar of Hadlow paid to the rector 1*s.* 6*d.* The preſent incumbent is the Rev. Daniel Hill, vicar of Eaſt Malling.

At the Warrens, a little north-eaſt of the church, has been a Druid temple in an oval form; ſome of the ſtones have been carried away by the inhabitants, and many are covered by the ſandy ſoil. To the north-weſt of theſe are other maſſy ſtones, now heaped in confuſion upon each other; they were originally ſix in number, and thirty-three paces in circuit. As theſe laſt are only thirty-ſix paces from the other, there can be little doubt but this was the altar belonging to the temple.

TROTTESCLIFFE.

THE pariſh of Trotteſcliffe, to the north-weſt of Addington, has the upper part upon the barren chalk hill covered with coppice wood; the low ground is ſandy,

ſandy: though every way bleak and unpleaſant, it is yet a healthy ſpot. The pariſh contains only thirty-two ſeparate dwellings, yet the great road to Dartford goes through it. The name is written Trotteſcliffe, but pronounced Troſley.

The manor was given by Offa king of Mercia, in 788, to the church of St. Andrew's, in Rocheſter. In the Daniſh ſpoliations it was loſt, but afterwards regained. The prelates of Rocheſter erected a palace, which becoming ruinous, was rebuilt in 1185. The munificent Hamo Noble, called de Hethe, whilſt he ſat in the chair of Rocheſter, repaired, and made great additions and improvements to it. Soon after the Reformation, it was deſerted by the biſhops, and has ever ſince been leaſed out for lives: the family of Goddens in the laſt, and the Whitacres in this century, have held it; the latter have acquired larger fortunes by agriculture than, perhaps, any other family in the kingdom.

An eſtate alſo called Trotteſcliffe manor, ſubordinate to that belonging to the biſhops of Rocheſter, had a park called Creſſy, from the ancient poſſeſſors, afterwards le Weſt park; coming to the Crevequers, one of them, in Edward I.'s reign, releaſed all his right in the manor of Trotteſcliffe to the ſee of Rocheſter: the purchaſe was fifty marcs, and a palfry as a fine. This, now called Weſt court or Wrotham water, lies in Trotteſcliffe and Wrotham; the leſſee, Thomas Whitacre, Eſq., reſides in this pariſh.

Trotteſcliffe, in the ſame juriſdiction as Addington, has a church dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. The rectory, an appendant upon the manor, is valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* The Rev. William Crawford, chaplain to the biſhop of Rocheſter, is rector. This pariſh was anciently obliged to contribute towards the repair of the fifth pier of Rocheſter bridge.

The Rev. Paul Bariſton and Mrs. Mary Godden gave lands, now of the annual rent of 9*l.*, to ſupport a charity ſchool.

In this pariſh reſided Anthony de Sancta Cilia, a nobleman of the kingdom of Majorca, and a captain of Brabant: in July 1576 he had a ſon baptized here; the father was buried at Maidſtone January 8, 1592. Perhaps this gentleman came into England whilſt Philip II. wore the matrimonial crown of this realm.

AYLESFORD.

AYLESFORD pariſh is divided from Maidſtone by the Medway. The orthography of the name has been very various; in the Saxon Chronicle it is Ægelesford; Nenius in 620 wrote it Episford; Aſſerius and Æthelward, Ægelſthrep; Domeſday-book, Elesford. It is a place of great antiquity; pleaſant, fertile, and healthy; diverſified with hill and valley, and beautifully varied with wood and water. The white houſes of its gentry form a fine contraſt to the green verdure of the lawns and meadows. There is ſuch a ſudden riſe in the land, that a perſon ſtanding on the ſouth ſide of the church-yard may look down the chimnies of the houſes, the tops being lower than the ground upon which he ſtands; this has a ſingular and novel effect. The proſpect is beautiful, exhibiting the fertile vale watered by the Medway.

This place, too large for a village, is too ſmall for a town: the carrying trade upon the river chiefly occupies the inhabitants. They have a fair held on July 29. The main ſtreet is very ſpacious; the houſes on the water ſide are mean dwellings. A handſome ſtone bridge of ſix arches, built many years ago at the expenſe of an individual, gives a communication to the oppoſite ſides of the river, and is now kept in repair by the county.

Aylesford manor, part of the demeſne lands of the crown, was held by Oſtiert Gibford, in king John's reign; after various transfers it came to the Wyats, who loſt it by attainture; and queen Mary, to reward Sir Robert Southwell for his ſervices in quelling Sir Thomas Wyat's rebellion, gave him a grant of the manor, but reſerved the priory. The gift was limited to Sir Robert, his lady, and their iſſue male; no ſuch being left, it again went to the crown: devolving to Elizabeth, her majeſty, in the fortieth year of her reign, gave it to Edward Randolph and Richard Argall, who in the beginning of James I.'s reign ſold the fee to the Colepepers, of Preſton-hall, the owner of which has ever ſince poſſeſſed the manor.

The Priory, now called the Friary, ſtanding on the north-eaſt ſide, and cloſe to the Medway, was founded by Richard lord Grey, of Codnor, in 1240, for friars Carmelites, being the firſt monaſtery of that order erected in England. At the diſſolution it was granted to the elder Wyat, to hold by knight's ſervice at 10*s.* 3*d.* yearly rent. Queen Mary, intending to re-eſtabliſh the monaſtic orders, retained,

but

but queen Elizabeth gave it to the Sedley family, who converted the priory to a ſeat, and reſided here.

Sir Charles Sedley, juſtly thinking himſelf diſhonoured by having Catharine, his only child, raiſed by James II. to the rank of counteſs of Doncaſter, which made her criminality with the king only the more conſpicuous, being accuſed of deſerting his royal maſter, replied, "His majeſty having created my daughter a "counteſs, I could do no leſs than make his a queen." Sir William Sedley, his father, in Charles II.'s reign, alienated the Friars to Sir Peter Rycaut. The following extract from the pariſh regiſter is equally honourable to Sir Peter and the parochial clergyman:—"Henry Grimſtone, Eſquire, and vicar of the pariſh, "was buried the 20th of September, 1654, in the chancel, near to Sir Peter "Rychaut, and was laid in his grave upon his right ſide, as he deſired." The two ſucceeding vicars were Joſeph Jackſon, who held it for a year, and "Daniel "Aldorne, gent., miniſter of this pariſh, and one of the Sorogatts of the dioceſe "of Rocheſter, and brother to Dr. Edward Alderne, chancellor of ſaide dioceſe, "who was buried the 1ſt day of September, 1666." Sir Peter Rycaut had ten ſons; the youngeſt, an eminent merchant, confidential ſervant to the crown during three reigns, traverſed great part of Europe, and went alſo into Aſia and Africa, yet found time to write books, and voluminous ones, upon various ſubjects; dying in 1700, aged ſeventy-two, he was buried near his parents, in the ſouth chancel of this church. The heir of Sir Paul diſpoſed of this eſtate to Caleb Banks, of Maidſtone, Eſq.: his ſon, Sir John Banks, created a baronet, made the Priory his reſidence, and greatly improved it. Heneage, created earl of Aylesford, having married Elizabeth, the eldeſt of the two daughters and coheirs of Sir John, obtained this in the partition of the eſtates. It is now the reſidence of the counteſs dowager of Aylesford, Charlotte, younger daughter and coheir of Charles duke of Somerſet, who diſpenſes her bounty to the needy with a very liberal hand.

This ſeat is the moſt perfect of any religious houſe in this part of the kingdom, and neither within nor without appears older than the reign of James I., until the parts are particularly ſcrutinized. The hall, chapel, cloiſters, and other remains of this conventual edifice, were formed into a ſuite of apartments by Sir John Banks, who laid the cloiſters with white and black marble: the high ſtone walls encloſing the garden, and the ponds belonging to the mill, are as they were in the monaſtic times; but the park is converted into more uſeful lands, though much of the paling

ſtill remains. Lord Aylesford alſo owns Rowe's place, the ſeat of the Rowes: it came by the Banks's to his lordſhip's anceſtor.

The manor of Tottington, or Tottenden, once belonging to the biſhop of Bayeux, was afterwards owned by the Rockeſles, who exchanged the tithe of the manor with St. Andrew's monaſtery, in Rocheſter, for the prayers of that community. The Poynings owned this manor with its free chapel of St. Stephen, whoſe female heir took them to the Palmers, of Snodland; the one held them of the caſtle of Leeds, and barony of Crevequer, the other of the ſovereign's honour of Liſle: being ſold in Henry VIII.'s reign to the Warcups, after various alienations the manor is now the property of Mrs. Frances Golding, of Ryarſh, who holds it of the crown at a fee-farm rent of 3*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*

Eccles, the Aigleſſa of the Domeſday-book, was alſo Odo's. Part is owned by the Finch family; the reſt, ſeparated into ſeveral lots, is held by Mrs. F. Golding, Mr. Corrall, and George Beſt, of Chilſton, Eſq.; the laſt gentleman is ſuppoſed liable to a fine due for the manor, inſtead of guard rent to Rocheſter caſtle. It was aſſeſſed towards the repairs of the fourth pier of Rocheſter bridge. The manſion has ſo long diſappeared, that its ſcite is unknown, but ſuppoſed to have lain near Boxley-hill.

Coſenton or Coſington, near Boxley pariſh, but in the juriſdiction of Maidſtone hundred, was the property of the Coſingtons, from the reign of king John to that of Henry VIII., when by a coheir it went to the Dukes; at the death of the heir general of whom, in 1750, it went to Stacey, who in 1797 ſold the manor to Mr. John Spong, of Milhale: the manorial rights have long been loſt. It was liable to be aſſeſſed for the repair of the fourth pier of Rocheſter bridge. The old manſion is uſed as a farm-houſe; but the relics of ancient reſpectability are ſufficiently apparent.

Preſton-hall, the head of the manor of Preſton and Allington, was the ancient reſidence of the Colepeper family, which have ſpread very wide in this county; one branch of them was ennobled, and there have been two creations of baronets. Here they were, from an early period, until the death of Sir Thomas Colepeper, the laſt baronet of thoſe of Preſton, in 1723, when it went to Alicia his ſiſter, the iſſueleſs wife of four huſbands, all of whom ſhe ſurvived: at her death in 1734, by virtue of a ſettlement, her eſtates veſted in Charles Milner, of Yorkſhire, Eſq., M. D., brother of her laſt huſband; he dying unmarried in 1771, deviſed the whole

whole to his nephew, the Rev. Joſeph Butler, D. D., who took the name of Milner; his widow now reſides here: the remainder is veſted in Charles Milner, of Farningham, Eſq. Preſton-hall, by the improvement of its late owner, is a very elegant manſion; a lawn, gained by turning the road, ſeems united to a ſmall paddock, each having a ſunk fence; the lands are laid out with great taſte.

The church of Aylesford is a large, fine, Gothic ſtructure, dedicated to St. Peter, containing many coſtly monuments to departed grandeur. The vicarage, in the gift of the dean and chapter, is valued in the king's books at 10*l.* The vicar has "the "manor of the parſonage," though the great tithes are veſted in the church of Rocheſter, as they had been before in the hoſpital of Stroud: the preſent leſſee is lord le Deſpenſer. The parſonage-houſe, on the north ſide the cemetery, is an old, ruinous, mean habitation. The preſent vicar is the Rev. —— Eveleigh.

Near Barming-heath, in one of the moſt retired, gloomy ſpots, is the ancient free chapel of Longſole, called the Hermitage; and no place was ever more adapted to ſecluſion and mortification, being hid in woods; and, unleſs a road had been near it, might never have been diſcovered by the prying eye of curioſity. After great contentions between the eccleſiaſtics of Aylesford and Allington, it was decided by the Roman court to belong to the former. The Hermitage was founded in Edward III.'s reign, and dedicated to St. Lawrence; the ſanctity of its ſequeſtered tenants was in great eſtimation. The chapel, ſtill remaining, is uſed as a barn; the cemetery is an orchard.

The hoſpital of the Holy Trinity was founded by Sir William Sedley, and endowed with 184 acres of land in Frittenden, valued at 76*l.*, in conformity to the will of his brother, John Sedley, Eſq.; the number to be maintained were ſeven men and two women. The houſe ſtill remains, but, ſhame to the patron and truſtee, no nomination has taken place for a number of years: the laudable inſtitution, if kept up, would be an inducement to the poor to be honeſt, induſtrious, and ſober.

There is alſo ſettled 20*l.* by the Rev. Joſeph Milner, in purſuance of Dr. Charles Milner's will, to ſupport a charity-ſchool.

In Aylesford is Kits'-Coyty-houſe, a rude cluſter of large ſtones, ſupporting ſtill larger. Near it is another, now in "ruins;" avarice having undermined this in hopes of diſcovering wealth. Much has been written relative to theſe rude remains; the one is ſuppoſed the monument of Catigern, brother of Vortimer, the Britiſh king,

king, who fighting with Horſa, brother of Hengiſt, the Saxon chieftain, fell with his antagoniſt, each having mortally wounded the other; and Horſted, about three miles diſtant, is thought to be the burial-place of Horſa. Such an action no doubt happened; but as none of the nations who came here erected ſuch memorials over their dead, it is moſt reaſonable to ſuppoſe that they are only druidical altars, reſembling ſo many others in this and other northern kingdoms, belonging to temples, the remains of which are viſible near them.

There is a remarkable ſpring iſſuing out of the coppice woods of Coſenton, which though clear, and coming from a deep, looſe, chalky ſoil, yet changes wood, and even flints and pebbles, to a moſt beautiful carmine colour, which become of a more brilliant hue after having been taken out of the water ſome time. No reaſon is aſſigned for this extraordinary alteration, the water not being chalybeate, nor having any other diſtinguiſhing quality, except being very chilly, and rough to the taſte.

BURHAM.

THIS pariſh, to the north of Aylesford, the Boreham of Domeſday-book, has been written Burgham in later ages. It is waſhed by the Medway, from whoſe banks gradually aſcending, the land terminates in hills of conſiderable height. Burham has little to recommend it, either as to health, beauty, richneſs of ſoil, or produce. The only peculiarity is pits of potter's clay in the hamlet of Great Culing. The corporation of Maidſtone has juriſdiction upon the river to a piece of land called Hawkeſwood.

Leofwine, the brother of Harold II., with whom he fell at Haſtings, owned the manor of Burham; after the Conqueſt it was given to the Curva Spina, or Crookthorne family, to whom followed the Magmanots, whoſe heireſs took it to the de Says, afterwards barons; they obtained of Edward III. a view of frank-pledge, with other liberties, and to hold *in capite* by the ſervice of contributing to the repair of part of Rocheſter bridge, and of Dover caſtle. The manor came into the Fienes' family, and went with the title of Dacre, until it was given to a younger ſon in James I.'s reign, whoſe heir diſpoſed of it to truſtees; they conveyed it to Sir John Banks, Bart. By his eldeſt daughter and coheir it ſettled in the Finch family,

family, and is now poſſeſſed by the earl of Aylesford; his lordſhip holds courts leet and baron for this manor.

The vicarage of Burham, a diſcharged living of the clear yearly value of 46*l.*, is in the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter. The church, dedicated to the bleſſed Virgin, though ſmall, has a large tower, with ſome painted glaſs in the windows. The knights of St. John of Jeruſalem were patrons. It belongs now to Mrs. Milner, of Preſton-hall. The incumbent is the Rev. Robert Parſons.

Haly-garden, a ſpring, the object of ſuperſtitious devotion, in this pariſh, was the reſort of pilgrims: the Carmelite friars obtaining leave from Richard II., by an aqueduct brought the water to their priory of Aylesford.

WOLDHAM.

WOLDHAM, more north than the laſt, adjoins St. Margaret's pariſh, and the liberty of Rocheſter. It was written Wuldaham by the Anglo-Saxons, and Oldeham by the Normans: the derivation is from wolde, a plain open down or hill, in oppoſition to weald, a low, woody tract, and ham, a village. Though only two miles from Rocheſter, it is yet obſcure and diſagreeable, the hills being ſterile, uninclоſed downs; the valleys ſtagnate, unhealthy marſhes, forming a ſtriking contraſt to the charming diſtricts laſt deſcribed. The village, with its church, is upon the banks of the Medway.

This poor pariſh has been contended for as much as if it had been the richeſt, by the monks of St. Andrew, in Rocheſter, the Anglo-Saxon monarchs, and afterwards between the former and the biſhops of Rocheſter. At the diſſolution of monaſtic inſtitutions, the priory held the manor, the biſhop the church. Henry VIII. gave the former to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter, who now hold courts leet and baron: their leſſee is Mr. Iden Henham.

The two manors called Rings and Starkeys, were the property of different families until united in the Marſhams: lord Romney holds both. The Starkeys, who owned the latter, built a good manſion and chapel there: ſome remains of this place of divine worſhip are ſtill ſtanding; and the houſe, uſed by a farmer, retains an appearance of better days, being of ſtone, with Gothic windows and door-caſes.

Sellers, anciently Hall, was originally the property of the at-Halls, who wrote

themſelves in Latin, de Aula; the atte Celars, or de Celario family, who purchaſed it, changed the name to Celars, by corruption Sellers: going by a female to the Beuleys, the manor was called Beuley-court, but the manſion retained the appellation of Hall-place, or Woldham-hall. The Rev. John-Kenward Shaw, who has taken the name of Brooke, now owns this ſeat, being deviſed to him by his maternal uncle, Joſeph Brooke, Eſq.

Woldham, in the ſame juriſdiction as the laſt pariſh, has a large, irregular, diſagreeable looking church, dedicated to All Saints. The rectory is diſcharged, and of the clearly yearly value, in the king's books, of 30*l.*, but has received queen Ann's bounty: the patronage is in the biſhop of Rocheſter. The Rev. Samuel Browne, A. M., is the incumbent.

This pariſh was once aſſeſſed to the repairs of the fourth pier of Rocheſter bridge. Some years ago, in digging a trench from Woldham-houſe to the open downs, ſeveral celts, chiefly of braſs, were found.

Hundred of Sharnel.

THIS hundred, on the weſt ſide the Medway, extends to the Thames. The name in Domeſday-book is Eſſamele, in ſome writings Scamele. It once belonged to the Knights Templars, afterwards to the noble family of Cobham. James I., upon their attainture, gave the hundred to the earl of Saliſbury, with the manor of Shorne; the former was paſſed away to the Leviſons, of Staffordſhire, and they in Charles I.'s reign alienated it to the Woodyers; ſince then Sharnel has gone with, and is now poſſeſſed by the owner of Shorne. This hundred contains the pariſhes of Halling, Cookſtone, part of Cobham, Shorne, Chalk, Denton, Merſton, Higham, Cliff, Cowling, Frindſbury, and Stroud, and a part of Stoke; but as its church is in another hundred, that pariſh is not noticed in this work.

HALLING.

THE pariſh of Halling, to the north of Snodland, is the Haling of the Saxons, and the Hallinges of Domeſday-book; its name means low paſture. It is every way unpleaſant, conſiſting of chalk hills, and unwholeſome ſalt or freſh marſhes. There

There are two villages, called the Upper and Lower Halling; the road from Stroud to Maidſtone paſſes through the latter.

At an early period Halling became part of the revenues of the ſee of Rocheſter. It was loſt during the Daniſh invaſions, ſeized by Odo biſhop of Bayeux, recovered in 1076, and became, in the diviſion between the biſhop and convent, confirmed to the former for the ſupport of the prelate's table. On this now diſagreeable, unhealthy ſpot, the biſhops erected a palace, which becoming ruinous, Gilbert de Glanville, in the twelfth century, rebuilt it. The next great patron of this place was the pious, learned, munificent Hamo Noble biſhop of Rocheſter, confeſſor to Edward II., to whom he behaved with all dutiful fidelity in his greateſt misfortunes. There is no character in that age more highly or more deſervedly praiſed, than this prelate's: William de Dene has written his life, which is given in the Anglia Sacra. His family deſcended from a Norman gentleman, ſurnamed le Noble: they were firſt ſeated in the north of England: a branch of them affecting commerce, ſettled in Exeter, where they, in the fourteenth century, executed the higheſt offices of magiſtracy, or repreſented that city in parliament. A third branch eſtabliſhed themſelves in the eaſtern parts of the kingdom, and were remarkably fond of the clerical profeſſion: the biſhop was a native of Hythe, in Kent, and thence called de Hethe—he was elected in 1316, conſecrated at Avignon 1319, and died in 1352, having reſtored this, and the other reſidences of the biſhops of Rocheſter, from a ſtate of almoſt dilapidation to more than priſtine grandeur. A ſtatue of him in his epiſcopal robes was placed in a niche over the outſide of Halling, carved in ſtone, about two feet high, and elegantly finiſhed. It was blown down in a great ſtorm, but not being broken, was preſented to Dr. Atterbury biſhop of Rocheſter—the ſubſequent misfortunes of that prelate prevented its being placed in ſome other more ſecure and public ſituation. Probably biſhop Noble was nearly related to Stephen le Noble, prior of Dunmow, in Eſſex, who died in 1312. The palace ſtood near the church, and almoſt upon the banks of the Medway. Here was a vineyard ſo early as 1255. The manor and eſtate ſtill remain with the ſee of Rocheſter; but the palace and its vineyards have totally diſappeared.

Langridge manor has gone through a variety of poſſeſſions until it ſettled in the Goldings, whoſe heir general took it to a Wood, upon whoſe death it went to Mr. W. Baker, a ſecond huſband: he reſides here. Some of the ruins of the ancient

manſion of the Bavents, once owners of the manor, are now, or lately were, remaining.

This pariſh, in the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter, is valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The church, dedicated to St. John Baptiſt, is in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Rocheſter. The vicar is John Price, A. M. Subordinate to the church was the free chapel or chantry of St. Laurence, ſuppreſſed by Edward VI. Halling anciently contributed to the repair of the third pier of Rocheſter bridge.

COOKSTONE.

THIS pariſh, farther to the north than the laſt, is written Cocleſtane in Domeſday-book, now uſually pronounced Cuxton. It is not more than a mile each way, exceeding Halling in healthineſs and fertility. The Medway forms the northern boundary; the land does not riſe gently from that river, but inſtantly becomes hilly.

The hiſtory of this manor is much the ſame as the laſt. From an early date it was the property of the ſee of Rocheſter, without any other intermiſſion than from the Daniſh wars, and the Uſurpation in the laſt century, when, with Middleton Cheney, it was purchaſed by Robert Fenwick, Eſq., for 627*l.* 12*s.*; the Reſtoration conveyed it to the legal owner. Lord Romney is the preſent leſſee. The manor of Bereſſe or Bereſh, after much contention, was confirmed eccleſiaſtical property, and has ever ſince Hamo Noble's epiſcopate been blended with the manor of Cookſtone.

Worne's-place, generally called Horne's-place, cloſe to the weſt bank of the Medway, was the ſeat of Sir William Worn, lord mayor of London in 1487. It has long been poſſeſſed by the Marſhams: the learned, loyal, accompliſhed Sir John Marſham, created a baronet, ſo well known by his excellent literary works, firſt reſided here; it is ſtill owned by his deſcendant lord Romney: but the family having quitted it for the Mote, the whole was taken down in 1783, except what was ſufficient to be converted into a farm-houſe. Lord Romney alſo owns the manor of Wickham, lying in this and Stroud pariſh, once belonging to Rocheſter priory.

This rectory, in the ſame juriſdiction as the preceding pariſh, valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, is in the gift of the biſhop of Rocheſter. The church

is dedicated to St. Michael; in the chancel are many monuments of the Marſhams. The Rev. Charles Moore, A. M. is rector.

The fifth pier of Rocheſter bridge was kept in repair by contributions raiſed from this and other pariſhes.

There are found here the larger never-dying bugloſſe, and the leſſer flowered broom rape, both near Whorne's-place; and what is ſingularly odious, as well as dangerous, dwale, or deadly night-ſhade, grows in vaſt profuſion throughout the pariſh.

COBHAM.

COBHAM lies to the north of Cookſtone; it is extremely retired, though the ſoil is rich, and the pariſh is of larger extent than the former one. The Roman Watling-ſtreet road paſſed through it, and having been the reſidence of nobility, it has been for ages of great importance. The gloom from the profuſion of oaks in the park is contraſted by the village, placed on ſo elevated a ſituation as to command an extenſive proſpect to the ſouth. Cobham is about two miles and a half from eaſt to weſt, and one and a half from north to ſouth. It contains 2950 acres of land, ſeventy houſes excluſive of the college, and about 760 ſouls.

Cobham gave reſidence and name to very rich, powerful, and wiſe barons, who became extinct in the perſon of Sir John de Cobham, lord Cobham, knight banneret. Joan, his grand-daughter and heir, had five huſbands: the fourth of them was the unfortunate Sir John Oldcaſtle, in her right baron Cobham, put to death by Henry V. for embracing the tenets of the Lollards. This often married lady, by her ſecond huſband Sir Gerard Braybrooke, left an only ſurviving child, Joan, who took the title and eſtate of Cobham, in marriage, to the Brooke alias Cobham family, no leſs illuſtrious than the preceding. The weak and wicked Henry lord Cobham forfeited his life, honours, and eſtates, for conſpiring againſt James I., but was permitted to ſpend the remainder of an ignominious and contemptible exiſtence in obſcurity: he died in the moſt abject wretchedneſs, in the houſe of a very poor man, once his menial ſervant, who had long given him an aſylum. Such was the end of the once gay, powerful Cobham, lord of the cinque ports, conſtable of Dover caſtle, lord lieutenant of this county, poſſeſſing an eſtate of 7000*l.* per annum, with a perſonalty of 30,000*l.*; and whoſe lady was a daughter of the earl of Nottingham, and widow of the earl of Kildare.

James I. gave this fine eſtate to his relation Lodowick duke of Richmond and

Lenox; at the extinction of theſe titles in the Stuarts, the laſt duke being much in debt, it was ſold; and after a variety of changes, Cobham ſettled in the anceſtor of the earl of Darnley, who now poſſeſſes it.

Cobham-hall is the reſidence of its noble owner, and inferior to few houſes in England, conſiſting of a centre and two wings; the former boaſts Inigo Jones as its architect: the laſt nobleman judiciouſly made the latter uniform with it. The ſtaircaſe is ſpacious, and the muſic-gallery is ornamented in a very ſuperb ſtyle. In remembrance of Elizabeth's having been entertained at this ſeat, her majeſty's arms ſtill remain in one of the large apartments, and near them an inſcription relative to the royal viſit. It is generally ſaid this magnificent pile coſt 60,000*l.*

On an eminence called William's-hill in the park, about a mile from the houſe, is the famed mauſoleum, built in the Doric order, of Portland ſtone, upon the ſcite of an ancient chapel; the form is octangular; the columns at the corners ſupport a ſarcophagus; the tops terminate in a quadrangular pyramid; the upper part forms an elegant chapel with windows of ſtained glaſs, ornamented with brocotello marble. Beneath is a vault, with receſſes to receive the illuſtrious dead; there repoſe the late earl and his counteſs. That nobleman left 10,000*l.* to erect this receptacle for departed greatneſs, but even that ſum was not ſufficient to complete the deſign; the ſum expended is ſaid to have been 15,000*l.* Britain has nothing of the ſepulchral kind equal in magnificence: architectural critics ſpeak highly of the elegant chaſtity of Mr. Wyat's deſign, but think a cupola ſhould be ſubſtituted inſtead of the pyramid. It forms a beautiful object to a great extent.

The park, though conſiderably leſſened, now contains 800 acres ſurrounding the houſe, and finely varied. The lofty trees of enormous bulk, and venerable from age, attract particular attention: ſome oaks are more than twenty feet in circumference; the famed cheſnut ſtanding in the grove near the path leading to Knight's-place farm, is thirty feet in girth, and receives its name of the four ſiſters from dividing into four very large arms. The veniſon fed in the park, from the fineneſs of herbage, is peculiarly delicate.

The prebend or farm of Cobhambury, long the poſſeſſion of the ſee of Rocheſter, was wreſted from it in Henry VIII.'s rapacious reign, and given to the barons Cobham, after their attainture; but changing owners often, it ſettled by purchaſe in the preſent earl of Darnley. It ſtill pays 12*l.* 16*s.* 2½*d.* as yearly tenths to the crown. A court baron is held for this manor.

Henhurſt

Henhurſt or Hennis, another manor, owned by earl Godwins before the Conqueſt, afterwards belonged to Anſgotus de Rocheſter. After having been often alienated, it was purchaſed by John Staples of the Temple, London, Eſq., who deviſed it to the preſent owner, Percival-Hart Dyke, Eſq., ſecond ſon of Sir John-Dixon Dyke, Bart. Half of the tithes were given to the priory of Rocheſter, and at the diſſolution granted by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter.

Haydon or Hathdune, the Saxon Ædune, now the Mount, a manor of Odo biſhop of Bayeux, of whom Ernulf de Heſding held, was ſome years ſince purchaſed by William-Salton Stall, Eſq., whoſe widow owns it. This manor uſed to contribute towards the repair of the fourth pier of Rocheſter bridge.

Oulets or Owlie, an eſtate weſt of Cobham-ſtreet, long the reſidence of the ancient family of Hayes, was lately ſold to Mr. Henry Edmeads, who has made it his reſidence.

Many perſons in this pariſh pay ſuit and ſervice at the manor of Dartford, held by Sir Charles Morgan, Bart.

Cobham, within the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter, is a vicarage. The church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, is a large, handſome, Gothic building, where the monumental braſſes are more ancient, and in greater number, than elſewhere. The preferment is a donative in the gift of lord Darnley, by Ecton accounted a diſcharged living, but is valued at 2*l.* in the king's books. The preſent vicar is the Rev. James Jones. The dean and chapter of Rocheſter have part of the great tithes, and four-fifths belong to William Pemble, Eſq. The vicar has neither houſe nor glebe.

The ancient college at Cobham, founded by John lord Cobham in Edward III.'s reign for five prieſts or chaplains, was ſo well endowed, that at the diſſolution its value was 142*l.* 1*s.* 2½*d.*, and the clear revenue 128*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* The college was quadrangular, nearly adjoining to the ſouth-eaſt part of the cemetery belonging to the church. Some ivy-crowned walls ſtill remain, as does the door-way, through which theſe prieſts went to their appropriate ſtalls on each ſide the great chancel.

The New College was founded and endowed by Sir William lord Cobham, whoſe piety was directed to a charity of another nature, to ſupport the living poor, inſtead of ſupplicating mercy for the dead. It maintains twenty perſons, elected out of this and other pariſhes. To ſupport this laudable charity, his lordſhip gave lands in Shorne and in the county of Eſſex, of the annual value of 111*l.* 10*s.*

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the wardens of Rocheſter bridge are preſidents, and their clerk ſteward. The barons Cobham were viſitors; the preſent one is the biſhop of the dioceſe, and during a vacancy of the ſee the dean and chapter.

The college of ſtone is compoſed of ſome of the ancient parts of the old college, with additions, the whole forming a quadrangle. It has a neat appearance, containing twenty lodging-rooms, with a large hall, which has a ſcreen at the entrance, and a raiſed floor at the upper end. The founder's arms in ſtone, and upon glaſs, with an inſcription to his honour, are in the hall. The college, as well as the houſes in Cobham-ſtreet, are ſupplied with water from works erected by the Brookes lords Cobham, and repaired lately at the expenſe of Mr. Bonham Hayes.

Theſe choice plants grow in this pariſh—calanthian violet, blue and white Canterbury bells, ground pine of ſeveral ſorts, goat's marjoram or organy, the yellow and the red archangel, the wayfaring tree, and the wild Engliſh daffodil.

SHORNE.

TO the north of Cobham is Shorne, in the Textus Roffenſis, Scorene, and in other muniments Sores and Schornes; the derivation is not eaſy to aſcertain. The pariſh is unhealthy and unintereſting. In 1796 a battery was erected, mounting four twenty-four pounders; lying cloſe to the ſea wall, it protects this part of the Medway. This place is conſpicuous at a diſtance from the windmill. The pariſh has about 1000 acres of arable, 400 of woodland, and 350 of marſh land; and there are about ſixty houſes. The ſoil is either chalk, ſand, or gravel. The heath or common ground is extenſive. The London road to Rocheſter goes through the pariſh.

The manor for ſome centuries was in the Northwoods, who held it *in capite*, by carrying, with other of the royal tenants, a white ſtandard forty days when the ſovereign went in hoſtile array to Scotland. After lord Cobham's attainture, James I. granted it to the earl of Saliſbury, and after various alienations it has ſettled in the Gordon family, who have courts leet and baron.

Randall, formerly Roundall and Rumdale, the moſt ancient ſeat of the Cobhams, has lately been reunited to the chief eſtate by the preſent earl of Darnley, who holds a court baron for this manor.

Two branches of the numerous family of Mapleſden till lately reſided here: by a coheireſs

coheireſs of Jarvis Mapleſden, Eſq., one of them, his eſtate has fallen to Mr. Thomas Pemble, but the ſeat is untenanted. The manſion of Mr. James Mapleſden, of Shorne Ifield, came to Mr. Thomas Noakes, who had married his eldeſt coheir, and is now poſſeſſed by that gentleman's brother, Mr. Jarvis Noakes, who makes it his reſidence. The widow of Dr. William Ayerſt, prebendary of Canterbury, built another ſeat in Shorne, now poſſeſſed by the Rev. Robert-Gunſley Ayerſt, her only ſurviving ſon, but occupied by Mr. Comport. It is oppoſite to the church, and has a moſt extenſive proſpect over the ſurrounding country.

Shorne is in the ſame eccleſiaſtical juriſdiction as the laſt pariſh; they were both given to the monaſtery of St. Saviour, of Bermondſey. At the diſſolution this was granted by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter. The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, contains many monuments; the moſt remarkable is that of Sir Henry de Cobham le Uncle, ſo called to diſtinguiſh him from a nephew of the ſame names.

The vicar is the Rev. Henry Jones, A. M., a minor canon of Rocheſter.

A very ancient chapel ſtood on the weſt ſide of the road oppoſite to Mr. Thomas Pemble's manſion; near the foundation a ſtone coffin and human bones have been found.

CHALK.

TO the north of Shorne is Chalk, the Celca of Domeſday-book, from cealc, the Saxon word for chalk-ſtone. This pariſh is about two miles from north to ſouth, and a mile and half from eaſt to weſt. The London road goes through it. The ſouthern part is hilly. It has two villages, Weſt Chalk or Chalk-ſtreet, and Eaſt Chalk; the latter lies near an extenſive expoſed marſh, rendering it ſubject to ſevere autumnal agues. Two-thirds of the pariſh is marſh land, which compriſes 117 acres, forty houſes, and 230 ſouls. The fair is on Whit Monday. This inconſiderable place is not without an extenſive trade: in Chalk-ſtreet reſide ſeveral flint-knappers, who manufacture the "beſt gun-flints" that are known in Europe; great quantities are exported.

Chalk was part of the eſtate of the inſatiable Odo biſhop of Bayeux. In the reign of Henry III. being divided, it was diſtinguiſhed by the names of Eaſt Chalk, and Weſt Chalk or Weſt-court; the former was given by the family of de Burgo to the monaſtery of Bermondſey, in Southwark. The other manor was purchaſed of the

the Nevilles by the Cobhams, and ſettled upon their college at Cobham. At the Reformation the Cobham family obtained both. Weſt Chalk was ſoon exchanged with the crown, and for ſix weeks was the eſtate of the lord protector Somerſet, who again reſigned it into the royal hands. Sir John Brooke, created baron Cobham by Charles I. for his loyalty, obtained both: they were conveyed by him to James duke of Richmond and Lenox, and at length purchaſed by the Blighs earls of Darnley, who alſo own Bekele or Beccles, an ancient manor, which is part of the Cobham eſtates, and ſuppoſed to have paſſed with the former manors, from the crown to the ducal family of Stuart.

There are two other inconſiderable manors, called Raynehurſt and Tymberwood, with the eſtates of Felborow and Clam-lane, which were long the property of the ſame owner. In the laſt century the Criſpes owned them; in this, they were ſold by the Cottingtons to Mr. John Jenkinſon, who diſpoſed of the eſtates of Clam-lane and Felborough to Robert Maxwell earl of Farnham, whoſe only child and heir, lady Harriet, took them in marriage to Dennis Daly, Eſq., of the kingdom of Ireland; but the manor of Raynehurſt was ſold to Mr. Brown, whoſe widow, Mrs. Sarah Brown, owns it. Tymberwood manor was alienated to the anceſtor of Mr. David Day, the preſent poſſeſſor.

The church of Chalk is in the ſame ſpiritual juriſdiction as that of Shorne; it ſtands upon the brow of the hill, without any houſe near. There are very ludicrous groteſque figures on the outſide of the porch, ſtrange accompaniments to the ſtatue of the bleſſed Virgin which ſtood between them. Hamo Noble biſhop of Rocheſter gave Chalk church to the Benedictine priory of Norwich; it was exchanged in 1379 for the church of Martham, in Norfolk, by the college at Cobham; the crown is patron: but a portion of the tithe of Shorne, Chalk, and Cobham, was given by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter. This vicarage is a diſcharged living of the clear certified value of 40*l.* The Rev. William Crackelt, rector of Ifield and Nutſted, is the incumbent.

DENTON, NEAR GRAVESEND.

DENTON lies ſtill farther north, the Danetone of Domeſday-book: the name ſhows it was once the reſidence of thoſe piratical ſcourges the Danes. The addition, Lower Denton, is expreſſive of its ſituation, near the marſhes, and as near Graveſ-

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end, is to diſtinguiſh it from a place of the ſame name, near Eleham, in Kent. In extent it is nearly of the ſame ſize as Chalk; it reſembles that pariſh in ſoil and unhealthineſs. There is no church here, and but two dwellings, the court-lodge and the parſonage, a handſome houſe, lately rebuilt by Mr. Nicholas Gilbee, leſſee under Mrs. Bevans, in which he reſides.

The biſhops of Rocheſter long poſſeſſed the manor and lands, with liberty of having gallows, aſſize of bread and ale, tumbrel, pillory, chattels of fugitives and condemned perſons, with other feodal appendages, which now appear ſo extraordinary. The priory of Rocheſter afterwards owned the pariſh; at the diſſolution Henry VIII. granted it to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter.

The ſmall church, dedicated to St. Mary, ſtood on a bank cloſe to the ſide of the road, but has been defecrated ſince the middle of the laſt century; ſome of the outſide walls ſtill mark the ſpot: the cemetery is a farm-yard.

As all church dues and duties are paid at Chalk, it may be properly deemed an appendage to that pariſh. It anciently was aſſeſſed towards the repairs of the ninth pier of Rocheſter bridge.

MERSTON.

TO the eaſt of the laſt place is Merſton, written Mereſtune in the Textus Roſſenſis: the name is expreſſive of its low, marſhy ſituation. There are only 150 acres of land in this diſtrict, which is now regarded in the aſſeſſments of the poor as a part of Shorne. Its boundaries are ſcarcely known; the land is good, but the ſituation unhealthy. There have been no inhabitants for ſome ages: anciently there appears to have been a caſtle or fortification, and a ſmall church, dedicated to St. Giles; the ſcites of both are diſcernible in ſome woodlands, but not even a foot-path leads to them. Meſton or Green manor, purchaſed by the barons Cobham whilſt Henry VIII. ſat upon the throne, has gone very much in the ſame line of deſcent as the eſtates at Cobham, and, like them, is now lord Darnley's.

The pariſh, though once a chapelry to Shorne, is now a rectory, within the dioceſe of Rocheſter and a peculiar of Canterbury, in the deanry of Shoreham. Its valuation in the king's books appears to be 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and it is in the gift of the crown. This ſinecure is held by the Rev. John Brett.

HIGHAM.

THE pariſh of Higham is more north than the preceding: the ancient names were Hecham, Hegham, and Heathham; from about the reign of Stephen to that of Edward III. it was frequently written Lillechurch alias Higham, from the priory which was here, a very unſuitable place for ſuch an eſtabliſhment, unleſs it was charitably intended to ſoon releaſe the nuns confined there of their vows and lives together; for, like all the lands to the north of the London road as far as Canterbury, and thence to the iſle of Thanet, it is ſubject to fatal intermittents.

It is about four miles from north-weſt to ſouth-eaſt, but little more than a mile wide. At the ford the defeated Britons were followed by Plautus, the victorious Roman general, in the year of Chriſt 43; and as a proof that this was an accuſtomed paſſage over the Thames to the Eſſex ſide, there remains a raiſed cauſeway, nearly thirty feet wide, the work of that people, conducted through the marſhes by Higham to Shorne. Two centuries ago ferry-boats went from this place to Eaſt Tilbury, in Eſſex, much traffic being carried on by lading and unlading ſhipping to and from London on each ſide the river.

Higham had a nunnery in former ages, and a fort built by Elizabeth to defend the Thames; but this too has long ſince been abandoned. It has now nothing worthy notice but its church and village, called Church-ſtreet, containing ſeven houſes, whoſe unfortunate inhabitants are under the baneful influence of the marſhes, which nearly compriſe half the pariſh.

Odo biſhop of Bayeux had Hecham; and before him, Godwin, ſon of Carli and Toli, held it as two manors, named Higham and Lillechurch, which veſting in the crown upon Odo's diſgrace, remained there until Stephen, with Matilda his queen, conveyed them under the general name of Lillechurch to William de Ipre, the Flemiſh earl of Kent, in exchange for the manor of Feverſham. Probably the eſtates remained with that monarch, who afterwards founded and endowed a nunnery for the Benedictine order at Lillechurch, in Higham; where his daughter Mary ſecluded herſelf until ſhe removed to, and became abbeſs of Rumſay. The nuns procured a grant of the manor for 100*l.* from king John, after the earl of Kent with his countrymen were obliged to leave England; and Henry III. confirmed it, with the farther privilege of holding a fair on the feaſt of St. Michael, and the two following days. From Hamo Noble, called de Hethe, biſhop of Rocheſter,

Rocheſter, acting here as viſitor, it is evident the nunnery was under the protection of the prelates of that ſee. It continued without any remarkable occurrence until the reign of Henry VIII., when from ſixteen nuns it was reduced to a prioreſs, a ſub-prioreſs, and two ſiſters; for which reaſon, and their unchaſte lives, the learned Dr. Fiſher, biſhop of Rocheſter, obtained leave to diſſolve this, and the abbey of Bromhall, in Berkſhire, to augment the foundation of St. John's college, in Cambridge, the munificent work of Margaret counteſs of Derby, mother of Henry VII.

The original priory ſtood a mile from the church of Higham, near the road to Cliff; and in the garden behind what is called Lillechurch-houſe, is a field named Church-place, where human bones have been dug up. Afterwards this nunnery was deſerted, and another edifice built near the church, called the Abbey. The farm-houſe, erected on its ſcite, has ſeveral walls and fragments remaining of this ſecond religious foundation, ſome of which are covered with encircling ivy.

The manor of Great Okeley was anciently the St. Cleres', then the Sedleys', one of whom ſold it Mr. Shales, of Portſmouth, who ſoon after alienated it to the anceſtor of Peter lord Gwydir, the preſent poſſeſſor. Little Okeley, a manor belonging to the St. Cleres, at length alſo formed a part of the Sedley eſtates, of which family it was purchaſed by the Gates's: the three ſiſters and coheirs of the late Mr. Gates, town-clerk of Rocheſter, are now entitled to it. The Okeleys have ſo long loſt all manerial rights, that no courts are held for either of them.

The Hermitage is a ſeat and eſtate long poſſeſſed by the Head family: the former fell to thoſe claiming from their female heirs, the manſion went to the ſhare of James Roper, Eſq., who has taken the ſurname of Head. The houſe was rebuilt, and a park encloſed by Sir Francis Head, Bart., who alſo much improved the ground. This reſidence is on the ſouth-eaſt border of the pariſh, built on an eminence, having a moſt extenſive and charming view of the Medway and Thames, the channel below the Nore, and a vaſt circuit in the counties of Kent and Eſſex. The park is now open ground.

Mr. Alderman Stevens, of Rocheſter, has alſo built a good houſe, to which he occaſionally retires, on the knoll of the hill to the weſt of the village.

Shakeſpear has immortalized Gad's-hill, in this pariſh, by his truly comic ſcene between prince Hal and the fat knight. The appropriate ſign of Sir John Falſtaff is very injudiciouſly taken down; it muſt have recalled to the traveller a thouſand

pleaſant thoughts; for who has not read the play of Henry IV., and having read, who has forgotten it?

Higham, within the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter, is now a vicarage; the great tithes having been formerly given to the Benedictine abbey of St. John, in Colcheſter, but afterwards, by exchange, to the nunnery of Lillechurch, in this pariſh, and thence granted to St. John's college, in Cambridge, now the patrons; the vicar, however, has ſome portion of the great tithe. It is valued in the king's books at 8*l.* 10*s.* The incumbent is the Rev. Richard Hargraves, A. M., maſter of Rivington ſchool, in Lancaſhire.

Higham was contributary to the repair of the ninth, the manor of Okeley to the fourth pier of Rocheſter bridge.

CLIFF, NEAR ROCHESTER.

THIS pariſh, to the north-eaſt of Higham, was anciently Clive or Biſhop's Clive: to diſtinguiſh this place from Cliff, near Dover, it is uſually called Cliff, near Rocheſter; Cliff is ſignificant of the cliff or rock upon which it ſtands. The pariſh is five miles from north to ſouth; nearly three is marſh; for the Thames winding round the northern boundaries, entirely encloſes the unwholeſome level: the view is extremely fine from the high land, which is fertile and dry, but towards Cowling the ſoil is poor and ſterile. There are two villages, Cliff or Church-ſtreet, on the northern extremity of the upland, on the chalk cliff, romantically hanging over the level marſhes below: the large and ſtately church forming a fine object to thoſe paſſing along the river and ſurrounding country. The village of Cliff was once very conſiderable; a fire in 1520 much reduced its ſize and conſequence. It ſtill retains a fair held on the feſtival of St. Pelagius, October 19; the ruinated and deſerted houſes evince that it is going faſt to ſtill farther decay; perhaps in another century Cliff will not be the habitation of man. The other village is Weſt-ſtreet, about half a mile diſtant.

This manor and large eſtate were given to Chriſt-church, in Canterbury, during the Anglo-Saxon heptarchy; in the diviſion of the eccleſiaſtical property between the metropolitans and the priory, the manor and ſome eſtates were retained by the monks, whilſt others were ſettled upon the ſee of Canterbury. At the diſſolution Henry VIII. granted the manors of Weſt Cliff and Bury-court, with ſome eſtates,

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to lord Cobham; Weſt Cliff came to Sir John Brooke, created lord Cobham by Charles I., though the great eſtates were forfeited by attainture in the preceding reign: this nobleman conveyed the eſtates to James duke of Richmond and Lenox, and the earl of Darnley now poſſeſſes them, who holds courts leet and baron for the manor.

Burye, now Berry-court, after the Cobham attainture was given to the earl of Saliſbury, who ſold it to the anceſtor of its preſent owner, Jacob Harvey, Eſq.

Mallingden, now Molland, and Dean Fee, belonged to Chriſt-church priory, and was granted by queen Elizabeth to William Ewens; after ſeveral alienations it came to the Dykes; a coheireſs of theirs took it to the Acland family; it is now the property of James-Roper Head, Eſq., Elizabeth, widow of the Rev. Dr. Lill, of Ireland, and Frances-Mary Head, ſpinſter. Having no court lodge, a court baron is held under a tree for this ſmall manor.

Prior's-hall, a manor which belonged to the priory of Rocheſter, at its ſuppreſſion was given by Henry VIII. to the dean and chapter of the ſee: dean Hardy having a leaſe, left the benefits of it to charitable uſes, chiefly appropriate ones, to the lower officers in that cathedral. The dean and chapter have alſo the manor of Cardons, which they purchaſed in 1725.

Mortimer, another manor, vulgarly denominated Blue Gates, is at the ſouthern boundary of Cliff, once the reſidence of the de Mortimer family; it was purchaſed in the latter part of the laſt century of the Polleys, by Robert Lee, of Chatham, gent., whoſe ſon, William Lee, Eſq., ſurveyor of the navy under queen Anne, dying at an advanced age in 1757 without iſſue, left this manor to his relation, Mrs. Ward, of Chatham, with remainder to her brother, rear admiral Henry Ward, both of whom poſſeſſed it; the latter dying in 1768, his ſon Edward-Vernon Ward, Eſq., is now the owner.

Courtſole, a large ancient houſe, near the church-yard, was for many deſcents the Ropers', who reſided here occaſionally, until Chriſtopher Roper lord Teynham in 1645 diſpoſed of it to Sir Edward Monins, of Walderſhere, Bart., which family deviſed Courtſole to Mr. Short, a relation; he alienated it to Mr. Joſeph Haſted, whoſe grandſon, Edward Haſted, Eſq., the Kentiſh hiſtorian, ſold it to Thomas Williams, of Horton, gent.

This pariſh is a peculiar of Canterbury, and, as ſuch, in the deanry of Shoreham, and dioceſe of Rocheſter. The church, dedicated to St. Helen, is one of the largeſt

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and moſt handſome in the county; the chancel has its clerical ſtalls like a collegiate church. Archbiſhop Arundel's arms are on the roof, and ſome painted glaſs continues in the windows; the organ caſe remains, though the pipes are gone. It is valued in the king's books at 50*l.*: few livings are better in Kent: the rector has a clear 500*l.* without any outgoings. The parſonage-houſe, ſituate at Weſt-ſtreet, is a large, commodious reſidence. The rectory is a peculiar juriſdiction, the incumbent having the power to do almoſt every thing within the pariſh, as the archbiſhop of Canterbury has in his dioceſe, and as ſuch, he has an official ſeal appropriate to his eccleſiaſtical court of Cliff. The rector immemorially, until very lately, diſtributed on St. James's day a mutton pie and a loaf to all who demanded it; the expenſe was 15*l.* The patronage of the living is in the archbiſhops of Canterbury, who had great eſtates in Cliff, until exchanged for others by Henry VIII. The Rev. John Simkinſon is the preſent rector, who holds a court for the manor appendant upon his living, called Parſon's borough.

There was once a chapel at Weſt Cliff, but no part of it is remaining.

Some have ſuppoſed this place the Cloveſho, where ſo many councils were held in the Anglo-Saxon times, thinking the name Cloveſho to have been a compound of Cliff at Hoo; but the beſt antiquaries fix Cloverſho at Abingdon, in Berkſhire, which anciently had that name.

Towards that part of the Thames called the Lower Hope, in the marſhes, was built in 1796 a battery, mounting four guns, as a farther ſecurity to the river.

COWLING.

THE unfrequented, unhealthy, and diſagreeable Cowling, lying eaſt of Cliff, was anciently Colinges or Culinges, deſcriptive of its cold, expoſed ſituation. The extent is more than four miles from north to ſouth, and about half that in breadth. The land is chiefly low marſhes; but from Lodge-hill, an eminence, the proſpect is extenſive. Here are two villages, Cowling-ſtreet, and what may be judiciouſly called Church Cowling. The caſtle, long ſince diſmantled, raiſed this pariſh to conſequence.

The lordſhip of Culinges was earl Leofwyne's, ſixth ſon of earl Godwin, who falling with Harold II., his brother, at Haſtings, it went to the rapacious biſhop of Bayeux; for many ages it belonged to the Cobhams lords Cobham, afterwards to the

the Brookes alias Cobham, alſo barons Cobham. John de Cobham obtained leave of Richard II. to embattle and fortify his manſion here; on the eaſtern tower of the gate-houſe was a braſs tablet in the form of a charter, with his ſeal appendant, inſcribed,

"Knoweth that beth and ſhall be
That I am made in help of the contre,
In knowledge of whiche thing
This is chartre and witneſſing."

This inſcription was placed to prevent the jealouſy of the court. The caſtle has only two memorable circumſtances attending its hiſtory: Sir John Oldcaſtle retired hither to avoid his enemies; had he remained at Cowling he might, perhaps, have eſcaped his dreadful fate; but leaving this ſtrong aſylum, he was ſeized, tried, ſentenced, and executed as an heretic in the preſence of his illuſtrious ſovereign, after repeated offers of pardon if he would recant.

Sir Thomas Wyat the younger, in 1553, coming to Cowling caſtle, demanded admittance; receiving a denial, he diſcharged his ordnance, broke the gate, and killed a few of the ill-fated attendants; a conference then took place between the rebel chief and lord Cobham, the noble owner, his relation, whoſe brothers had joined the former. There was ſomething extraordinary in Wyat's going; it was ſtill more ſo in his not being admitted, and moſt ſo in not ſecuring it when he was able to gain admittance. Queen Mary was alarmed: ſhe commanded lord Cobham to come to court, and for ſome time committed him to the Tower. As his behaviour, though myſterious, could not be proved traitorous, he was permitted to return to Cowling: he never, however, regained queen Mary's confidence. If lord Cobham diſliked queen Mary's Spaniſh alliance, he was ſtill more averſe to queen Elizabeth's religion; this made him a warm partiſan of Mary queen of Scotland—happily for himſelf and his ſovereign, he died in the ſame year that Elizabeth began her moſt auſpicious reign.

His lordſhip bequeathed his "houſehold ſtuff" in Cowling caſtle to Ann his wife; the caſtle he deviſed to Sir William Brooke, his eldeſt ſon, who ſucceeded to his title of lord Cobham; he dying at the end of the ſixteenth century, left this caſtle to his ſecond ſon George Brooke, Eſq., who being implicated in the treaſon of his eldeſt brother Henry lord Cobham, was put to death, and his eſtates confiſcated; but James I., compaſſionating the family, reſtored the manor, caſtle, and advowſon to his infant ſon, afterwards Sir William Brooke alias Cobham, knight

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of the Bath, who died in 1668, leaving no iſſue by his firſt marriage with Penelope, daughter of Henry lord Dacre: by his ſecond, Penelope, daughter of Sir Moſes Hill, he had four daughters and coheirs; Pembroke, married to Matthew Tomlinſon, Eſq., ſo immediately concerned in the death of Charles I.; Hill, to Sir William Boothby, of Broadlow-Aſh, in Derbyſhire, Bart.; Margaret, to Sir John Denham, K. B.; and Frances, to Sir Thomas Whitmore, K. B., who became equally entitled to the eſtates of their father; but Sir John Denham and his lady dying, and leaving no child, they were ſhared between the others. A partition took place in 1669: Cowling-lodge with lands adjoining went to Mr. Tomlinſon; New-barn, and other lands near it, to Sir William Boothby; and the caſtle, with ſome eſtates, veſted in Sir Thomas Whitmore: but the royalties, privileges, and liberties were had in common.

Cowling-lodge fell to the ſhare of Mr. Tomlinſon, who narrowly eſcaped with life at the Reſtoration, as one of Charles I.'s judges; being alive in 1681, probably he ſaw the Revolution. At his death his ſiſters, or their deſcendants, becoming his heirs, ſold Cowling-lodge to Thomas Farrington, of Cheſilhurſt, Eſq., a deſcendant of whom paſſed it to Mr. Jacob Harvey, of Iſlington; and Samuel-Clay Harvey, Eſq., about 1760 erected a ſeat here, which he called Lodge-hill; though deſigned for his reſidence, the eſtate was ſold to Mr. John Smith before the whole was completed; Mr. Smith deviſed it to his youngeſt ſon, who ſince diſpoſed of it to his brother, Mr. Thomas Smith, of Stroud.

New-barn, with its allotted eſtate, was ſold by Sir William Boothby and his lady to Mr. Samuel Clay, a merchant in London, from whom it went by marriage to the family of Jacob Harvey, Eſq., the preſent poſſeſſor.

Cowling-caſtle, with the eſtate adjudged to Sir Thomas Whitmore, was conveyed by him to Frederic Herne, Eſq., who alienated it to the anceſtor of George Beſt, of Chilſton, Eſq.

The caſtle, evidently a place of conſiderable ſtrength, was ſquare, ſurrounded with a very deep mote, and lying ſo near the Thames, muſt always have been a place of conſequence; it has long been in ruins; there ſtill remain ſome of the walls; and to the ſouth-caſt, far detached from the caſtle, the handſome machicollated gateway, with its portcullis; this was the grand entrance to the caſtle, it now leads to the farm-houſe. Inſtead of the courteous knight mounted upon his fiery ſteed, conducting the beauteous virgin riding upon her palfry, followed by a

long train of reſpectful attendants, only the rude ruſtic is ſeen driving along the lowing herd to the waiting milk-maid—ſtrange tranſition!

Cowling, in the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter, valued in the king's books at 14*l.*, is a rectory: the church is dedicated to St. James. The preſent incumbent is the Rev. Matthias Rutton, A. M., alſo vicar of Sheldwich, in Kent.

FRINDSBURY.

TO the ſouth of Cowling is Frindſbury, anciently Freondeſbyri, a pariſh ſkirted on the eaſt, and much on the ſouth, by the Thames; extending five miles from north to ſouth, but not half that breadth in the contrary direction. There are few ſpots more diverſified: its church ſtands pictureſque; but the fineſt view from Frindſbury is at the Quarry-houſe, which being exactly oppoſite to Chatham dock, commands a moſt charming proſpect of the river, town, yard, and the ſurrounding country. In the low part next the river are extenſive ſalt marſhes, covered by every high tide. The hills are chiefly chalk, the dales loam; towards Hoo, clay: the whole rich in corn. The great London road goes through the ſouth part of the pariſh, which joins thoſe of Higham and Cobham, at the hamlet of Three Crouches, a name ſignificant of its having had three croſſes erected there by the ſeveral diſtricts.

The moſt conſequential thing in Frindſbury is Upnor caſtle, built by queen Elizabeth for the ſecurity of the river, now uſed as a magazine for gunpowder to ſupply the navy: the eſtabliſhment conſiſts of a governor, ſtore-keeper, clerk of the cheque, a maſter, and twelve other gunners, with inferior perſons. Under the governor is always a guard or detachment of ſoldiers. The ſouth tower of the caſtle was appropriated for his reſidence; but the governor, gunners, ſoldiers, and commanding officer have good apartments in the commodious barracks built near the caſtle, where there is a ſuitable houſe for the ſtore-keeper, and gardens to ſupply the whole with vegetables. The governor has the command of all the forts on the Thames, Sheerneſs alone excepted. Theſe forts, however, are rather nominal than real, except Cliff; the others are the Swamp, now the Bird's-neſt, which has long loſt its guns, and whoſe earthen embraſures, covered with buſhes, are mouldering away. Cockham wood fort, a mile below, is alſo entirely ruinous; yet it has a maſter-gunner, uſually an invalid, and a quarter-gunner, the former in the gift of the maſter-general of the ordnance. Hooneſs fort, uſually

called the Folly, lying beyond the laſt, though it has not a gun mounted, yet is not deſerted, having a maſter-gunner from Upnor caſtle, who having reſided a week, is ſucceeded by another: a boat is allowed to tranſport proviſions. Cliff fort has been, and Gillingham will be noticed. Frindſbury has now its dock, rope-yard, and other ſuitable accompaniments on the banks of the Medway, where large men of war have been built with great convenience; the land upon which the dock ſtands is part of what is the Quarry-houſe eſtate.

The manor of Frindſbury, with thoſe dependent upon it, granted to the cathedral church of Rocheſter by the heptarchical kings, was loſt during the Daniſh uſurpations: having been the eſtate of Harold II., William I. gave it to Odo his half brother, from whom it was recovered by Gundulph biſhop of Rocheſter, who allotted the manor of Frindſbury and its appendages to the monaſtery of St. Andrew's, except the advowſon, which biſhop Gilbert de Glanville regained. Henry VIII. gave the manor and that of Rede-court, in this pariſh, to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter: the leſſee of the former is Philip Boghurſt, Eſq., whoſe father built a handſome court-lodge near the church; the leſſee of Rede-court is Mr. John Boghurſt, of Stroud.

Heſlingham manor, anciently Æſlingham, was once of ſo much conſequence as to give name to the pariſh, which was formerly called Æſlingham alias Frindſbury: biſhop Gundulph gave it to Godfrey Talbot; it afterwards went to the St. Cleres, and was one of the few eſtates purchaſed by Cromwell earl of Eſſex, the wiſe miniſter and rapacious vicar-general of Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir William Drury; a deſcendant of his ſold it to the Clerkes, of whom it was purchaſed by the anceſtor of its preſent poſſeſſor, Thomas Beſt, of Boxley, Eſq.

John biſhop of Rocheſter built a chapel dedicated to St. Peter, and endowed it with the tithes, liberties, and cuſtoms ariſing within the manor; out of which was paid 10*s.* to the perſon who had the cure of Frindſbury manor, thirty ſheaves of wheat, thirty of barley, and thirty of oats to the mother church, as a compenſation for the fees due at the burial of the ſervants of the lords of the manor; it was further ſtipulated, that the lord of Heſlingham, his wife, ſons, and daughters, ſhould be buried at the church of Frindſbury, becauſe otherwiſe that church would loſe the obiit money, with ſuitable bequeſts, which in thoſe ages conſtituted a great part of the parochial income to the incumbent; theſe regulations ſettled, the lord of Heſlingham was permitted to have the chaplain he choſe reſide in the houſe,

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and ſit at his table: this is a picture of ancient times. Now Heſlingham has loſt its chapel, the lord reſides in another pariſh, and the ſeat is a farm-houſe.

Bromhey or Bromgeheg, given by Egbert king of Kent, and confirmed by the illuſtrious Offa king of Mercia, to the church of Rocheſter, was then in the limits of a caſtle called Hrofecaeſter. Afterwards the eſtate was divided: the prelates of Rocheſter had a ſhare; Hamo Noble, called de Hethe, in 1337, at a great expenſe repaired his grange or farm-houſe here; the de Cobham family poſſeſſed the remainder, which deſcended with the eſtates of that family; it forms a part of the rich domains of the earl of Darnley. Bromhey had alſo a chapel in the beginning of the fourteenth century; all traces of it are now loſt.

Chattenden, an eſtate containing 655 acres of land, was, as an appendage to Frindſbury manor, part of the poſſeſſions of the abbey of Rocheſter: at the diſſolution Henry VIII. gave it to the ennobled family of Brooke or Cobham; James I. granted it to the Stuarts dukes of Richmond and Lenox; it is now owned by lord Darnley.

Goddington was the reſidence of the Goddingtons, and afterwards of the Waltons, who obtained this ſeat and manor by marrying the ſole heireſs of a Snaith; the Wattons alienated it in Charles II.'s reign to the Barrells; the niece of the laſt poſſeſſor of that name took it to her huſband Joſiah Marſhall, Eſq.; their ſon, the Rev. Edmund Marſhall, late vicar of Charing, ſold it in 1780 to Mr. Thomas Ayres, who rebuilt the ſeat, and dying in 1796 left it to his niece, Mrs. Mary-Ann Hopkins; ſhe ſold it to the preſent owner, George Gunning, Eſq.

Wainſcot, a manor, once called, from its owners, Parlabeins-yoke, came to the Colepepers, of Aylesford, and in this century has been alienated to the Goldings, the Brookes of Town Malling, the late Rev. Edward Holme, and the preſent poſſeſſor, Mr. John Boghurſt, who holds courts leet and baron for the manor.

Mr. David-Hermitage Day, of Rocheſter, brewer, has a handſome modern brick ſeat, called Little Hermitage, very near the great road, and ſome diſtance from the pond called St. Thomas's watering-place. Two or three years ago this houſe was ſtruck by lightning in the upper ſtory in an horizontal direction, going entirely through the longeſt way of the whole building.

Frindſbury, within the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter, is a vicarage, valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 3*s.* 11½*d.*; the great tithes and advowſon belong to the biſhops of Rocheſter. The church, a neat ſtructure, adorned with many monu-

ments, is dedicated to All Saints; the preſent incumbent is the Rev. W. P. Menzies, A. M., a minor canon of Rocheſter.

This pariſh anciently contributed to the repair of the fifth pier of Rocheſter bridge.

STROUD.

SOUTH of Frindſbury is Stroud, the Strodes of the Textus Roffenſis, divided in its civil juriſdiction into Stroud infra, and Stroud extra; the one belonging to that of the county juſtices, the other to the corporation of Rocheſter. It is one of the "three towns," Stroud, Rocheſter, and Chatham; they appear but one place, conſiſting of a very long ſtreet. Stroud has its church at the weſt, and Rocheſter bridge at the eaſt termination. The inhabitants are ſhopkeepers, publicans, ſailors, fiſhermen, and oyſter dredgers. They have had a three days fair commencing Auguſt 17th, given them in king John's reign, which is now become very conſiderable. Since the act paſſed in 1769 for new paving, lighting, and watching, this place has greatly improved, being now little inferior to Rocheſter.

The manor is called Stroud Temple, from its having been given by Henry II. to the Knights Templars, who had a manſion here, which is ſtill remaining. Henry VIII. at the diſſolution gave the eſtate to Edward Elrington *in capite*, who, with Grace his wife, paſſed it to the lords Cobham, and lately it was purchaſed of the Blagnes by the uncle of its preſent owner, Thomas Whitaker, of Trotteſcliffe, Eſq.

Goddington gave name to a family, by whom it was granted to Rocheſter abbey; at the diſſolution Henry VIII. ſettled it upon the dean and chapter of Rocheſter; this manor is held under the dutchy of Lancaſter.

The Yoke or North Yoke is a ſmall manor, now poſſeſſed by the Rev. Samuel Denne, as truſtee to the late Mrs. Mary Thornton, daughter of the Rev. Stephen Thornton, of Luddeſdon.

Newark or Stroud hoſpital, dedicated to the honour of God and the Virgin Mary, was erected by Gilbert de Glanville biſhop of Rocheſter, in the beginning of Richard I.'s reign. It was raiſed for the purpoſe of praying for the ſouls of the biſhop, his predeceſſor, ſucceſſors, and benefactors, the reſtoration of Chriſtianity in the Holy Land, the redemption of Richard I., to receive and relieve the poor, ſick, and infirm of the neighbourhood, and travellers, and to ſupply them with beds, food, and liquor, until their departure: it ſeemed needleſs that the remainder

remainder of the revenues ſhould be directed to be given to the poor in general, when ſuch an inſtitution demanded the wealth of a province. The hoſpital was placed directly under the cogniſance of the pope, the archbiſhop of Canterbury, and the biſhop of Rocheſter: great conteſts aroſe between the confreers and the monks of Rocheſter; the former lived very little according to the intention of the founder, until biſhop Hamo Noble ordained that they ſhould live and dreſs according to the rule of St. Auſtin, and, to their mortification, obliged them to reſidence; and as an acknowledgment that their revenues were taken from Rocheſter abbey, to wear the white croſs of St. Andrew upon their garments. At the diſſolution their revenues amounted to 52*l.* 9*s.* 10½*d.*; all which Henry VIII. judiciouſly gave, firſt to the priory, and a few months afterwards to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter. The manors of Boncakes or Newark, and Hawkins, were in this pariſh; a court baron is ſtill held for the former. The hoſpital ſtood on the north ſide of the high-ſtreet in Stroud, near the church-yard; the ſcite, retaining its name, is ſo covered with ſubſequent buildings, as to exhibit little of the old ſtructure: the almonry, now a ſtable, is the moſt perfect part.

The pariſh, in the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter, has a large Gothic church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, formerly a chapel to Frindſbury: the incumbent is only perpetual curate: the preſent one is the Rev. John-Ward Allen. The dean and chapter of Rocheſter, who are patrons, have the tithes, but liberally demiſe them, with all the other emoluments, for the annual acknowledgment of one penny rent. It is not valued in the king's books.

Stroud is the utmoſt extremity preſcribed by this work; but as it will be a gratification, no doubt, to the reader, to know the preſent ſtate of places of ſo much conſequence as Rocheſter and Chatham, it is meant to give a ſketch of them and their environs, including Sheerneſs.

ROCHESTER.

THE entrance from Stroud to Rocheſter is by a moſt elegant bridge, whoſe length is 560 feet: lately it has been conſiderably widened, new faced with ſtone, with baluſtrades of the ſame, ſubſtituted for old parapet walls or iron railing: the two central arches are to be thrown into one; the whole number will then be ten: the expenſe is eſtimated at 35,000*l.* This bridge has ever been of the greateſt importance;

portance; in ancient times there was a wooden one, in a more direct line from Rocheſter and Stroud; the date of the preſent one is not known. Our monarchs have given and enlarged the powers of the bridge company, conſiſting of two wardens and twelve aſſiſtants, annually choſen, who are a community with a common ſeal, and veſted with great powers, and a revenue of 1000*l.* per annum ariſing chiefly from eſtates: no ſociety has ever better performed the duties entruſted to it. The levies from the various pariſhes who anciently were aſſeſſed to repair the bridge have long ceaſed. A few years ago a row of houſes ſtood on one ſide the lane, which rendered the road to it very confined; the company took them down, and finding that accidents often happened by the ſhortneſs of the turn, the corner houſes have juſt been removed. When the ground is paved, the entrance to this noble bridge will be ſuitably ſpacious. The whole money for theſe neceſſary improvements is raiſed by the company, or borrowed of the neighbouring nobility, gentry, or barge owners, which are to be paid off in lots. At the eaſt end Sir John de Cobham, one of its founders, built a chapel or chantry, once the uſual accompaniment to great bridges. The bridge chamber on its ſcite, built by the wardens in 1735, is a neat ſtone edifice, having upon it the arms of the principal benefactors to the bridge: here are held weekly, quarterly, and annual meetings.

Rocheſter, the Durobrivæ of the Romans, and Hroueceaſter of the Saxons, contains little more than one ſtreet; in the Anglo-Saxon times it was rather a caſtle than a city: it was once encloſed within walls; the remains are viſible at preſent. It forms, with Chatham, one long continued place. The juriſdiction of the city was formerly the hundred, now the city and liberty, of Rocheſter.

The firſt object that preſents itſelf after paſſing the bridge is the caſtle, once a ſtrong fortification, now a ruin; built, it is ſuppoſed, by William the Conqueror, upon the ſcite of a Roman one: it ſtands on a ſmall eminence near the Medway; the form is almoſt quadrangular; the dimenſions 300 feet ſquare within the walls, which are ſeven feet thick, and twenty high: on one ſide, the Medway ſecured it, on the other a deep broad ditch, now nearly filled up. Some of the ſquare towers on the angles and ſides remain; that on the ſouth-eaſt angle is ſo lofty as to be ſeen at twenty miles diſtance; it has the ſame form as the caſtle. To avoid particulars of what is no longer uſeful, it will be ſufficient to remark, that on the third floor were the ſtate rooms, thirty-two feet in height, ſeparated by columns, forming four

grand

grand arches, curiouſly ornamented, and upon the whole give us a flattering ſpecimen of the architecture of the age in which they were built.

This caſtle was always of importance; the Danes often annoyed, and in the reign of Alfred would have poſſeſſed themſelves of it, had he not, with his uſual expedition, flown to the ſpot, and obliged them to ſeek refuge in their veſſels. Odo biſhop of Bayeux made this his reſidence, and the ſcene of his violence; here his half-brother William the Conqueror having ſeized, ſent him to Normandy, when juſt ready to ſail to Rome with all his ill-acquired wealth, being deſirous to employ it in purchaſing the popedom. In Rufus's reign, unbroken by a long impriſonment, coming over, he acted the ſame turbulent part, and was again ſeized by his new ſovereign: a treaty was agreed upon; he promiſed to deliver up this caſtle; but acting with that duplicity which ſo peculiarly marked his character, the king marched againſt, and took it by ſtorm. Simon Montford earl of Leiceſter, and the other confederate barons, beſieged this caſtle; but Henry III.'s chief conſtable, Roger de Leyborne, with the earls of Arundel and Warren, and Henry Delamaine, bravely withſtood every attack, and the beſiegers were obliged to quit the enterpriſe. Rocheſter caſtle, except in the reigns of Henry I. and John, who gave it to the ſee of Canterbury, was always in poſſeſſion of the ſovereign, until James I. granted the caſtle to Sir Anthony Weldon. It was lately the property of lady Ducie, upon whoſe death in 1793, the truſtees under Mr. Child's will have the care of this, with his other great eſtates. At ſome diſtance the caſtle appears perfect; and ſo ſtrong are the walls, that though all the timber, lead, and whatever elſe could be ſold, has been long taken away; yet it may remain for ages in its preſent form, if not purpoſely deſtroyed. Many urns and lachrymatories, found on Bully or Boley hill, near the caſtle, mark out with preciſion the place of ſepulture of the Romans while they remained at Rocheſter.

The cathedral is a very diſagreeable looking edifice at a diſtance, from its large, cumbrous ſpire. The weſtern entrance is very fine; the nave is ſmall, and has nothing attractive; the choir is extremely elegant. The original church was built about the year of Chriſt 600; the preſent nave by biſhop Gundulph, who ſat from 1077 to 1107; the choir by William de Hoo, ſacriſt, who has been dead about 570 years. Amongſt the contributors to its preſent grandeur, biſhop Hamo Noble was conſpicuous; in 1343 he raiſed the tower, covered it with lead, and placed in it four bells, which he named DUNSTAN, PAULINUS, ITHAMAR,

and LANFRANC. The preſent ſteeple was built in 1749; it is 136 feet high, and has ſix bells. The church is curiouſly vaulted with ſtone; the columns are Petworth marble, of a greeniſh grey colour: the choir has been greatly improved, and laid with Bremen and Portland ſtone, and the altar paved with black and white marble, at the expenſe of a lady. The altar-piece, of Norway oak, is elegant; archbiſhop Herring, once dean of Rocheſter, gave 50*l.* towards the decorations. A painting by Weſt, of the Angels appearing to the Shepherds, is in the centre: the epiſcopal throne was at the expenſe of biſhop Wilcocks in 1743, when the preſent wainſcot ſtalls and pews were ſet up; the old organ was replaced in 1791, with an excellent one built by Green. The neatneſs of every part of this very ancient ſtructure does the dean and chapter great credit; and when we conſider that during the Uſurpation the nave was converted into a carpenter's ſhop and yard, with its accompaniments of ſaw-pits, &c., the wonder is, that the whole was not deſtroyed, eſpecially the monuments of the ancient prelates. The pious and munificent Dr. Warner, who died in 1666, in his eighty-ſixth year, was the laſt who was buried in this cathedral: his executors, in a ſingle inſtance, acted contrary to the directions of his will, by erecting a monument to his memory. Rocheſter has been peculiarly fortunate in her prelates; the ſix preceding the preſent one never were tranſlated from the ſee, and all died at very advanced ages. The learned and right rev. Samuel Horſley, S. T. P., now preſides over the dioceſe, being the ninety-firſt in ſucceſſion. In the king's books this ſee is valued at 358*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.*; the annual income is not more than 600*l.*, but the deanry of Weſtminſter is generally held with it. The deanry of Rocheſter is about 400*l.* per annum; the preſent dean is the Rev. Thomas Dampier, D. D. The archdeaconry is rated in the king's books at 34*l.* 14*s.* 9½*d.*: little emolument accrues from it, but that is compenſated by a preſentation to ſome good parochial preferment: the preſent archdeacon is the Rev. John Law, S. T. P. There are ſix prebendaries: the income of each ſtall is near 300*l.* a year, with a good prebendal houſe. The ſix minor canons reſide in pleaſant ones, forming what is called Minor Canon row; and beſides theſe are inferior officers. The prelates of Rocheſter anciently had a ſuitable palace near the cathedral: cardinal biſhop Fiſher, who fell beneath the axe in Henry VIII.'s reign, was the laſt who reſided in it. The preſent building, erected upon its ſcite, is not older than the laſt century, and is leaſed out. Francis Head, Eſq., left a good manſion at St. Margaret's Hill for the reſidence of the prelates, when they came

to the city; but this has never been uſed by them, and is alſo leaſed out. The deanry is handſome, and the prebendal houſes are good. The biſhops of Rocheſter, as chaplains to the primates of Canterbury, were formerly appointed by them, but they are now nominated by the ſovereign, and elected by the chapter.

There is only one pariſh within the walls, which is St. Nicholas'. The church is only a few yards diſtant from the cathedral; over the entrance is, "*Hæc eccleſia* "*Re-edificata dedicata xix die Septembr. anno* 1624. *Tempore majoratus Johis De-* "*clinge.*" There is nothing worthy notice in the inſide. It is a vicarage, valued in the king's books at 20*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*; the patronage is in the dioceſan. The preſent incumbent is the Rev. William Wrighte, one of the ſecretaries to the Society of Antiquaries. There was once another church within the walls, St. Clement's, but it has long been deſecrated; and by Edward VI. the rectory was given to St. Margaret's pariſh: ſome ſmall remains of the church are viſible; it was not more than forty feet wide, and of proportionable length, yet ſufficiently capacious for the ſmallneſs of the pariſh in which it ſtood. Without the walls is St. Margaret's pariſh, in the ſtreet which bears its name, but better known as Rocheſter-ſtreet. It is a vicarage, in the patronage of the dean and chapter, charged in the king's books at 10*l.* The preſent incumbent is the Rev. Arnold Carter, A. M., a minor canon. There was another church called St. Mary's without the gates, but not even a relic of this remains.

Of the long-famed monaſtery of St. Andrew, little is ſtanding except the tower leading to the cathedral. It was founded in the year 600 by St. Auguſtine for ſecular prieſts, who were diſplaced by biſhop Gundulph in 1080 in favour of Benedictine monks. At the diſſolution it was valued at 486*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* per annum; the revenues were chiefly appropriated by Henry VIII. to the endowment of this deanry and chapter. In the ſtreet, ſome diſtance from the bridge, is the town-hall, a handſome brick building, ſupported with coupled columns of ſtone, in the Doric order; the aſcent to which is by a ſpacious ſtaircaſe. The room, large and elegant, has a ceiling curiouſly ornamented with military trophies, fruits, and flowers: the walls are adorned with fine portraits of William III. and queen Anne, by Kneller, Sir Cloudeſley Shovel, Sir John Jennings, Sir Thomas Colby, Sir Joſeph Williamſon, Mr. Watts, Sir John Lake, Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir Stafford Fairborne. Here the city buſineſs is tranſacted, and in it the judges have frequently alſo held the county aſſizes. On the outſide is, "This building was

" erected in the year 1687, John Bryan, Eſq., then mayor." Some diſtance below is another marble tablet, inſcribed, " Theſe pavements were given by the Hon. Sir " Stafford Fairborne, Anno Dom. 1706, John Burges, Eſq., mayor;" alluding to the fine ſtone pavement before the town-hall, which is now uſed as a market-place for fiſh, vegetables, and fruit. The falcon at the top of the tablet is probably the creſt of Fairborne. On the ſame ſide is another handſome ſtructure called the clock-houſe, which has been newly repaired; it ſtands upon the ſcite of the ancient guildhall, and bears this inſcription: " The preſent building was erected at the " ſole charge and expenſe of Sir Cloudeſley Shovel, knight, A. D. MDCCVI. He " repreſented this city in parliament in the reign of king William the Third, and " in the parliament in the reign of queen Ann. Richard Thompſon, mayor, " 1795."

The royal grammar-ſchool adjoining the priory gate was founded by Henry VIII. for the education of twenty boys called king's ſcholars: their dreſs of blue cloth is in the faſhion of Henry's time. Here are four exhibitions of 5*l.* each paid by the church to as many ſcholars, until they obtain the degree of maſter of arts, if they remain ſo long in the univerſity without having a fellowſhip: two of the ſcholars are ſent to Oxford, and two to Cambridge. There are two maſters placed over the boys. The Rev. Robert Gunſley, rector of Titſey, in Surrey, deviſed in 1618 to Univerſity college, Oxford, 60*l.* per annum to maintain four ſcholars, natives of Kent, with a preference of thoſe of his name and kindred, to be choſen from the free grammar-ſchools of Maidſtone and Rocheſter; each to be allowed chambers and 15*l.* a year.

More to the eaſt, oppoſite the prior's gate, is Cheldegate-lane, ſo called from one of the ancient gates of the city; at the bottom of it is a large ſuitable poor's-houſe of brick, built in 1724; towards the expenſes of its erection Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir John Jennings, who repreſented the city in parliament, gave 500*l.*: the poor are induſtriouſly kept in ſpinning worſted and yarn.

Farther towards Chatham is the cuſtom-houſe, and next to it a white edifice, with very ſingular inſcriptions, expreſſing by whom, when, and for what purpoſe built; they are tranſcribed, as having, it is believed, never been entirely given to the public—

" Richard Watts, Eſq., firſt deviſed An. 1579, Relief for Travellers, to be " had after death of Maria his wife, which ſhe, by the help of Thomas Pagitt her " ſecond

" ſecond huſband, aſſured, An. 1586; died 31 of December, 1580. The " mayor and citizens of this city, and dean and chapter of the cathedral, and come- " nality of the bridge are to ſee this executed for ever." Below this is,

" Richard Watts, Eſq.
by his will dated 22d of Auguſt, 1579,
founded this charity,
for ſix poor travellers,
who, not being rogues or proctors,
may receive gratis, for one night,
lodging, entertainment,
and fourpence each."

" In teſtimony of his munificence, in honour of his memory, and inducement to " his example, Nathaniel Ward, Eſq., the preſent mayor, hath cauſed this ſtone " gratefully to be renewed and inſcribed, A. D. 1771." On one of the wings is, " Thomas Pagitt, ſecond huſband of Maria, daughter of Thomas Somer, of " Halſo, widow of Richard Watts, deceaſed. Theſe An. 1599." On the other wing oppoſite to it is a ſhield baron and femme, with labels, and " Pagitt" and " Somers" on each ſide; the arms are a croſs invecked, in the firſt quarter an eſcallop ſhell, impaling vert, a feſſe ermine. The rents of the lands belonging to this charity have ariſen from 36*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* to 500*l.* After fulfilling the intention of the donor in lodging and relieving poor travellers, not rogues or proctors, the remainder is given to other charitable purpoſes.

The hoſpital, once the ſpital of St. Catherine, founded by Simon Polyn in 1316, eſcaping the general wreck at the diſſolution, ſtands in the high-ſtreet of the ſuburb of Eaſtgate, was rebuilt in 1717, and gives aſylum to twelve aged perſons, who are allowed twelve chaldrons of coals, and ſix dozen of candles amongſt them, and 1*l.* 6*s.* each yearly.

The free-ſchool founded by Sir Joſeph Williamſon in 1701, is a handſome brick building, on the north ſide of the high-ſtreet, with a very long Latin inſcription above the entrance: here the ſons of freemen of the corporation are educated and inſtructed in mathematics, and other branches of ſcience, eſpecially ſuch as are nautical. There is an ample proviſion for the ſupport of this foundation; the head maſter is allowed 100*l.* per annum, and the under one 40*l.* with each a houſe. It muſt be remarked that the firſt maſter was Mr. John Colſon, afterwards mathematical profeſſor of Cambridge; and the inimitable Garrick was under his tuition

whilſt preſiding over this ſchool: at this early age genius ſhone forth, and proclaimed a future Roſcius—the remembrance of his youthful talents is fondly treaſured up by the inhabitants of Rocheſter. This city has to boaſt of as many public charities as any one of the ſame ſize in the kingdom.

St. Margaret's hill near Chatham is now built upon, and joins that town: there are ſome very good houſes detached from the high-ſtreet, that ſtand very pleaſantly. Rocheſter, ſince it has been new paved and cleaned, is a neat, elegant place, the reſidence of many genteel and opulent perſons. No place can be better ſupplied with food than this; a variety of the fineſt fiſh is conſtantly brought for ſale, and they have a market on Friday for pigs, poultry, butter, vegetables, &c. in the area leading to the court-hall; and on the ſame day for meat in the ſhambles within the clock-houſe. But Chatham has ſuperſeded the neceſſity for this laſt—a monthly Tueſday's market has lately been eſtabliſhed for cattle; and they have two fairs, one by charter, the other by preſcription, upon the feaſts St. Dunſtan and St. Andrew, each of which laſts three days; on the firſt principally for cattle.

This, though one of the ſmalleſt, is not the moſt inconſiderable of our cities: few have had greater immunities and privileges granted or confirmed by Engliſh monarchs. The government is by a mayor, eleven other aldermen, twelve aſſiſtants or common council, a recorder, town-clerk, two chamberlains, a principal ſergeant at mace, water-bailiff, and inferior officers. The preſent and late mayor, elder aldermen, and recorder, are juſtices of peace within the limits of the corporation: ſmall debts in the city and adjoining pariſhes are recoverable in their court. Rocheſter has returned members to the houſe of commons from the time of Edward I. The preſent repreſentatives are Sir Richard King, Bart., admiral of the blue, and the Hon. Henry Tufton, brother to the earl of Thanet.

Rocheſter gave title of viſcount to Sir Robert Carr, afterwards created earl of Somerſet, and elected knight of the garter, whoſe ſubſequent crimes made him an object of deteſtation and ſcorn: his munificent ſovereign, James I., whoſe confidence he had ſo ſhamefully abuſed, would not permit his merited death; but his alarmed conſcience, aided by a univerſal defection, made life a misfortune, not a bleſſing to him.

The loyal Henry Wilmot, only ſon of Charles viſcount Wilmot, of Athlone, in Ireland, the faithful and confidential ſervant of his royal maſters Charles I. and Charles II., was raiſed to the earldom of Rocheſter, by patent dated at Paris, in 1652,

1652, as ſome recompence for the troubles his ſteady loyalty had occaſioned: dying at Dunkirk in 1659, his body was brought over and buried at Spilſbury, in Oxfordſhire: by Ann, daughter of Sir John St. John, he was father of John, the witty, profligate, and repentant earl of Rocheſter, who died July 26th, 1680, leaving, by a rich heireſs, Miſs Elizabeth Mallet, of Enmore, in Somerſetſhire, Charles, an only ſon, who dying in November 1681 a minor, and unmarried, the title became extinct.

Laurence Hyde, viſcount Hyde, ſecond ſon of the great chancellor and miniſter, was created by Charles II. in 1682 earl of Rocheſter; his lordſhip was brother-in-law to James II., and maternal uncle to queen Anne. During four reigns he filled the moſt important offices in England and Ireland, and was elected knight of the garter; dying in 1711 he was ſucceeded by Henry his ſon; his firſt couſin, Edward earl of Clarendon, leaving no male iſſue, that earldom alſo veſted in him. His only ſon, viſcount Cornbury, dying a little before him, both titles became extinct, and that of Rocheſter has never been revived.

To give a relation of every royal viſit that Rocheſter has been honoured with, would exceed all bounds—the heptarchical kings, the Anglo-Saxon monarchs, often came hither; and after the Norman conqueſt, being in the direct road to our ſovereigns' continental dominions, there are few of our kings until queen Mary's reign who have not been here in their paſſage to France, and ſince that time moſt of them on ſome occaſion or other. Queen Elizabeth, in her progreſs round the coaſts of Suſſex and Kent in 1573, remained at Rocheſter five days; ſhe attended divine ſervice the day after her arrival, and heard a ſermon in the cathedral. The benevolent Mr. Watts, at whoſe manſion ſhe reſided, expreſſing his concern that his houſe was too ſmall to accommodate her majeſty, ſhe graciouſly anſwered SATIS (enough): that word has ſince given name to the houſe now owned by Mr. Longley the recorder; it is a large, handſome, brick building. James I. and his royal brother-in-law, Frederic II. of Denmark, viſited this city in 1606, and heard a ſermon by Dr. Parry, dean of Cheſter, the greateſt orator in the kingdom. Charles II. at his return from baniſhment was received by the loyal citizens with the ſincereſt joy; the mayor and corporation preſented the king with a ſilver baſin and ewer. His majeſty ſlept that night at colonel Gibbon's, who has been repeatedly mentioned as receiving grants of royal and epiſcopal lands during the Uſurpation, and which by this return of his ſovereign he was upon the point of loſing. The colonel's manſion has

has ſince had the name of Reſtoration-houſe. That unfortunate, miſguided monarch James II., came to Rocheſter December 19, 1688, and remained until the 23d at the houſe of Sir Richard Head, Bart., when, with the duke of Berwick and two others, embarking in a tender, he left Britain never to return.

CHATHAM.

THE town of Chatham, united to Rocheſter by the continuance of the long ſtreet, is no otherwiſe known from that city and its ſuburbs than by having the houſes of leſs magnitude; for here, inſtead of gentry and wealthy tradeſmen, are found chiefly perſons uſually reſident in ſea-port towns. From the great ſtreet are ſome detached ones, eſpecially at Slicket's hill, where a ſmall town has lately been formed as it were of itſelf. Some years ago this place was diſguſtful from its filth; then the houſes projected, making it dark and gloomy; being unpaved it became abſolutely impaſſable to ſtrangers—yet the inhabitants obſtinately refuſed to unite with Rocheſter and Stroud to procure an act of parliament to pave, light, and cleanſe it. A road was cut at great expenſe behind the town in 1769, through high hills of chalk and gravel, filling up with the excavated materials the deep valleys. At length, made ſenſible of their fooliſh prejudices, they unanimouſly ſubſcribed towards improving their town; and in 1772 one gentleman generouſly defrayed the whole expenſe, about 250*l.*, of procuring an act of parliament: a more extenſive one was obtained in 1776. Since then Chatham has much increaſed in ſize and population, and become a clean, neat place; the ſtreet, moderately ſpacious and well lighted: the expenſe of this change has been at the eaſy rate of only 9*d.* in the pound. Its Saturday's market of meat, poultry, and vegetables, ſupplies itſelf, and even Rocheſter. There are two fairs, one on May 15, the other on September 19, which continue for three days each, chiefly for clothing, millinery, pedlary, toys, and ſuch articles.

The firſt thing that arreſts attention on entering Chatham from Rocheſter, is the victualling-office, placed on the north ſide the ſtreet, where the royal navy here, at Sheerneſs, and the Nore, are ſupplied with proviſions, eſpecially beef and pork. There are cooperage, pickling, baking, cutting, ſlaughter, and ſtore houſes. Lately a new wharf has been made, and more buildings erected for the ſervice and convenience

nience of this office, which is under the control of an agent-victualler and a ſtore-keeper.

A little farther on the right was St. Bartholomew's hoſpital, founded by an unknown perſon, at an early period, for lepers: Henry III. confirmed its privileges, and Edward III. diſcharged it from taxes, tallage, &c. Eſcaping the common diſſolution, the eſtates in 1627 were veſted in the dean and chapter of Rocheſter as governors and patrons. There are now four brethren, two of whom are in orders. Some part of the original edifice is converted into a ſmall chapel, ſtill called St. Bartholomew's, where the people of this part of Chatham attend public worſhip; William Walter, of Chatham, Eſq., in 1743, enlarged, new pewed, and built the ſteeple.

Oppoſite to this is Sir John Hawkins's hoſpital, finiſhed in 1592, and incorporated by queen Elizabeth at the requeſt of the founder. One of the governors having given 500*l.*, it has been lately rebuilt, and makes a handſome appearance to the ſtreet, which it fronts. The annual ſum given by Sir John Hawkins was only 66*l.*, and no other has added to the income except Robert Davis, a poor, honeſt ſeaman, who fell in battle in 1692, who bequeathed 60*l.*, his little all, which his executrix punctually paid. The penſioners, reduced from twelve to ten, receive lodging and 3*s.* 6*d.* weekly, and a chaldron of coals yearly; they muſt be maimed, diſabled, or otherwiſe diſtreſſed ſeamen, belonging to the royal fleet; and a ſuitable proviſion is made to inſtruct them in the truths and comforts of religion. The deputy governor reſides in the principal houſe, and receives an additional fee of 2*l.* The viſitor is the archbiſhop of Canterbury. The governors are twenty-ſix: of theſe, four are elective; the others are great official characters. This excellent inſtitution has been unaccountably neglected by a body of men as liberal as brave, and whoſe profeſſion more than any other unites its great, with the humble members. Over the old gate was,

"The poor you ſhall always have with you: to whom ye may do good yf ye wyl."

Near the eaſt end of the high-ſtreet is the large poor's-houſe, built in 1726 by voluntary ſubſcription, and capable of containing great part of the very numerous paupers.

The chief object of every ſtranger is principally the ſtore-houſes, dock, and barracks. Queen Elizabeth viewed, enlarged, improved, and built Upnor-caſtle to protect

protect this dock; knowing the importance of her naval ſtrength, and that commerce was the natural mean of aggrandizing her ſubjects. James I. improved the arts of peace, and under his government the bleſſings of wealth acquired by merchandiſe, made his reign more ſolid than brilliant; a native timidity, aided by an acquired prodigality, prevented his uniting a martial ſpirit with the wiſdom of peace. This monarch, finding that the old dock was become too ſmall for the purpoſes deſigned, removed the naval yard to its preſent ſituation, and appropriated the former one to the office of ordnance. This is a long narrow point of land below the chalk cliff to the north of Chatham town, between the church and the river. Here the eye is gratified with long tiers of guns and pyramids of cannon-balls upon the wharf; under cover are carriages for the artillery, with many kinds of naval ſtores; and a ſmall armory of muſkets, piſtols, cutlaſſes, pikes, poleaxes, and other offenſive weapons. A ſtore-keeper, clerk of the ſurvey, of the cheque, two extra clerks, and other officers, preſide over this department: the former has a good houſe.

The royal naval dock adjoins the former; it probably had been uſed towards the end of the reign of queen Elizabeth; James I. formed it into a regular one, and Charles I. greatly improved it by enlarging and forming new docks, capable of floating ſhips with the tide. Charles II. viſited this dock in 1660, and ſaw there the Royal Sovereign of 100 guns. This monarch, whoſe abilities were confeſſedly great, directed his attention to naval affairs, knew the conſtruction of and improved the ſhips of war in ſeveral reſpects.

Every thing here aſtoniſhes the ſpectator, and muſt give him an idea of the greatneſs of our ſtrength at ſea, and of the care taken to retain that ſuperiority which the four quarters of the world acknowledge we poſſeſs. The entrance is by a ſpacious, handſome gateway, flanked by two embattled towers: all ſtrangers are obliged to give a ſatisfactory account of themſelves, and receive a written leave before they go farther. The eye is every where gratified with the elegant apartments of the commiſſioner, and other principal officers; the vaſt ſtore-houſes, one of them 660 feet in length; the work-rooms ſuitable to the deſign for which they are erected; the ſail-loft 209 feet long; the immenſe ſtowages of ſails, rigging, hemp, flax, pitch, tar, roſin, the coils of cordage, heaps of blocks, and every thing that can be wanting in ſhipping, and all this with ſuch exactitude, that no confuſion can ariſe on the moſt ſudden emergency: to a perſon unacquainted with nautical affairs it exceeds credibility,

and ſtill more when he is told how much one of our largeſt ſhips takes of each requiſite to furniſh it.

The ſtore-houſes for maſts of all ſizes alſo occaſion great aſtoniſhment: one of them is 236 feet by 120. Here are maſts nearly 120 feet long, and thirty-ſix inches in diameter; baſons of water receive them, to prevent their cracking. The ſmith's forge appears the native reſidence of Vulcan, having twenty-one fires; the labour theſe ſons of heat endure may be imagined, when it is mentioned that anchors of almoſt five tons are wrought here. The old rope-houſe was 700, the new one is 1140 feet in length; cables of 120 fathom long, and twenty-two inches round, are twiſted here. For laying down or repairing ſhips are four docks, of ſuch depth and ſize, that veſſels of the largeſt dimenſions have been built in them; the moſt remarkable have been the new Royal George, the Queen Charlotte, of 100 guns each, and the Ville de Paris of 110. Theſe, when building, appeared ſuch immenſe wooden edifices, that it might be ſuppoſed another deluge was apprehended, and that the intended floating ſtructure was to contain ſome of each ſpecies, that they might be ſaved from a ſecond wreck of nature. To ſee the workmen go to their houſes at ſtated times, and in one body, eſpecially the carpenters, is a moſt pleaſing ſight. The whole of the dock is a mile in length, and on the land ſide ſurrounded with a high wall. The officers employed by government are a commiſſioner, allowed three clerks, a clerk of the cheque, ſtore-keeper, maſter ſhipwright or builder, clerk of the ſurvey, two maſter attendants, two maſter ſhipwrights, aſſiſtants, maſter calker, clerk of the rope-yard, maſter rope-maker, boatſwain, purveyor, ſurgeon, and many inferior officers.

Leaving the dock-yard, the lower barracks preſent themſelves; buildings which are large, handſome, and uniform, with a fine ſpacious encloſed area: the approach to them and the dock-yard is by a double road, ſhaded with lime and walnut trees.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is near the old dock, and quite detached from the town. The ancient church being burnt, the preſent was built in 1352; in 1635 it was repaired, the weſt end rebuilt and enlarged, and a ſteeple erected, all at the expenſe of the commiſſioners of the navy. Commiſſioner St. Loe in 1707 built a gallery on the ſouth ſide for the uſe of the navy and ordinary. The place increaſing ſo much, it became neceſſary to rebuild it upon a larger ſcale, except the ſpire; the requiſite ſum was raiſed by a brief, and parochial aſſeſſment: the preſent edifice is brick. This inſcription is on the outſide—"The body of this

" church, with the chancel, was taken down and rebuilt in the year 1788; John " Law, D. D., miniſter; Mr. William Wilſon, Mr. Francis-Steele Bond, church- " wardens; Mr. John Southerden, ſurveyor." The inſide is peculiarly neat, with weſt, ſouth, and north galleries, and the walls much covered with neat marble monumental tablets, which had been in the former church. There are painted buſts of Rainold Barker, Eſq., lord of the manor, who died December 26, 1609, and Ann his wife, who died January 9, 1615, who after his death was married to Sir Michael Sands, of Throngley, in Kent, Knt. The white marble monument of Kenricke Ediſbury, of Marchwell, in Denbighſhire, Eſq., ſurveyor of the navy, who died in 1638, exhibiting him to the waiſt, reſting his right hand upon a ſkull, and holding a book in his left, is a fine piece of ſculpture. The cemetery is crowded with tombs and grave-ſtones: the ground being too ſmall for the number of interments, the office of ordnance has given a large piece of land at ſome diſtance.

Leaving the church and aſcending the hill, are the upper barracks, which riſe one above the other, having encloſed courts; they make a very handſome appearance, occupying a large ſpace of land; like the lower, they are of brick, and every part ſhows the exact neatneſs and order obſerved in them: there are always five regiments of ſoldiers, and a battalion of artillery, in theſe barracks.

The vaſt fortifications extend themſelves on all ſides, covering a very large tract of land, procured by ſeveral acts of parliament, and are capable of protecting the whole of this " grand arſenal of the navy of Great Britain." On the ſummit of the hill is Amherſt's redoubt: theſe entrenchments are not fully perfected, as it is intended ſtill farther to enlarge them.

At the top of the hill is the delightful village of Brompton, built within memory, conſiſting of ſeveral ſtreets, and a range of houſes very appropriately called Proſpect-row. There is no where a finer view than this hill affords; for, turning to the ſouth, may be ſeen in the valley the Medway expanding itſelf until it becomes a large baſon, capable of holding a great fleet, and where veſſels of all dimenſions are promiſcuouſly ſeen, with perſons in all directions, moving in quick ſucceſſion; and of theſe the military in the barracks form a ſplendid and conſpicuous feature. Beyond the water lies Rocheſter, and its unequal wings, Stroud and Chatham, curving with the river, and extending nearly three miles; the caſtle, cathedral, churches, other public buildings, handſome houſes, with the fertile country behind the three towns, finely varied with the richeſt cultivation; Upnor-caſtle, the church and village

lage of Frindſbury, the farm-houſes, orchards, and woods, all gently riſing from the towns, until they are loſt in the diſtant horizon, forming a diſplay that rivets to the ſpot the admiring ſpectator.

The view to the north is ſtill more grand:—the river opening into an arm of the ſea; Sandgate creek, where ſhips perform quarantine; and the coaſt of Eſſex; all are open to view. The veſſels coming in and going out from Chatham, and the wood of ſtately maſts at Sheerneſs and the Nore, with the ſea cloſing that part of the magnificent ſcenery; the village of Brompton become almoſt a town; the white church of Hoo on the other ſide the river; the church of Gillingham, where once was an archiepiſcopal palace, and now a neglected fortification; all unite their various beauties to diverſify this enchanting ſpot.

Before quitting the three towns let it be remarked, that at Stroud are various wharfs, where the largeſt colliers come up and ſafely moor; that there and at Rocheſter are a company of oyſter-dredgers, free by preſcription, but under the government of the corporation of Rocheſter; and that Chatham has not only ſuch who gain their living by ſea employments and fiſhing, but thoſe who ſerve in his majeſty's navy and army, and of every different trade that is ſeen in the extenſive docks, beſides all thoſe officers who preſide over every diſtinct department in the yards and barracks; forming altogether with Rocheſter, a great body conſtantly and actively employed. Beſides the extenſive fortifications to protect Chatham, there are always lying in commiſſion three third-rate men of war called guard-ſhips; two ſtationed at Chatham, and the other at Blackſtakes, near Sheerneſs.

It is evident that Chatham was a Roman ſtation, from the many urns, coins, and other remains of that people, particularly foundations of their buildings, teſſelated pavements, and arms. The manor of Horſted in this pariſh has generally been ſuppoſed to have taken its name from Horſa, the brother of Hengiſt, having been buried here: this Saxon chieftain encountering in ſingle combat Catigern, the brother of the Britiſh king Vortimer, each died by the hand of his opponent. Catigern's burial in Aylesford pariſh has already been mentioned.

James I. was at Chatham July 4, 1604, where he knighted many gentlemen; and on Sunday, Auguſt 10, 1606, that monarch, his queen, and Henry prince of Wales, conducted Chriſtian IV. king of Denmark, accompanied by the counſellors, chief officers of their houſehold and attendants, to Chatham, in the ſhip named Elizabeth-Jonas, which was magnificently adorned to receive the illuſtrious gueſt,

with cloth of gold, and in the half-deck a rich chair of ſtate was placed. After dinner the two ſovereigns went from that ſhip to the White Bear, upon a bridge about 240 yards long, made of fir maſts railed in on both ſides, which floated upon the water, and was of ſufficient breadth for four men to walk with convenience abreaſt; in the middle of the bridge was a great hoy called the kitchen, where the food had been dreſſed for the whole court. After the monarchs and their ſuites had paſſed the windmill-hills, the gallies, ſhips, and caſtle diſcharged their ordnance, a tremendous peal from nearly 1200 guns, all fired together.

A circumſtance diſgraceful to Britain happened at Chatham. The Dutch in 1667, under their vice-admiral Van Ghent, ſent by admiral de Ruyter with ſeventeen ſail of the lighteſt veſſels and fire-ſhips, broke the chain which the duke of Albemarle had haſtily thrown over the river, and burnt the Matthias, Unity, and Charles V., three large Dutch prizes taken in the preceding war, with other veſſels alſo placed there to protect the chain: he then with ſix men of war and five fire-ſhips proceeded to Upnor-caſtle, which made all the reſiſtance poſſible. The brave Dutchman, though checked, and finding the whole alarmed country coming againſt him, yet ſeized the hull of the Royal Charles, and burnt, in his retreat, the Royal Oak, Loyal London, and Great James, with the loſs of only 150 men and two of his ſhips, which running on ſhore he deſtroyed. This, the greateſt diſgrace England has received in any of her wars, was ſeverely animadverted upon by the enemies of Charles II.'s government: the duke of Albemarle threw the blame upon Sir Phineas Pett, commiſſioner of Chatham yard, whom the houſe of commons impeached; but he ſo ably defended himſelf, that the charge fell to the ground. The king took every prudent precaution that no ſubſequent diſhonour ſhould be ſuſtained, by ſuitably fortifying the banks of the Medway: their good effects have remained until the preſent time.

Chatham has given title to two illuſtrious families. John Campbell, the great duke of Argyle, was in 1705 created by queen Anne baron of Chatham and earl of Greenwich; the latter in 1719 was erected into a dukedom for him: his grace dying in 1743 without male iſſue, this barony became extinct.

Heſter, wife of the right hon. William Pitt, in conſideration of his great and important public ſervices, was raiſed in 1761 to the rank of baroneſs Chatham, with remainder to their male iſſue; and July 30, 1766, his majeſty called him to the houſe of peers, by the title of viſcount Pitt of Burton Pynſent, in Somerſetſhire,

and

and earl of Chatham. His lordſhip dying in 1778 univerſally regretted, as a juſt, wiſe, and ſucceſsful miniſter, was ſucceeded in his titles by his eldeſt ſon John, the preſent earl of Chatham, whoſe younger brother, the right hon. William Pitt, the preſent premier, raiſed Britain from deſpondency to envied greatneſs and proſperity, until the ruthleſs ſons of France, by outraging human nature, obliged him to take up arms to ſtem the torrent of what they impiouſly call "holy inſurrection." Since then this virtuous ſtateſman has, by his wiſdom, ſubdued an infamous faction in this, and an open rebellion in the ſiſter kingdom, and made our fleets ride triumphant throughout the globe; ſo long as religion, law, the arts, civilization, and every thing that is valuable ſhall be prized, he will be eſteemed as the benefactor of mankind, being, under his ſovereign, the principal inſtrument in the hands of Providence to free a groaning world from the plunder of the atheiſtical regicidal governors of France, the moſt infamous conſpirators againſt the rights of men that blacken the page of hiſtory.

On the ſouth ſide of Chatham-hill and near, are found theſe different ſpecies of the ſatyrion or orchis plant—the butterfly, gnat, humble bee, bee, fly, bird's, and ſpotted bird's orchis. The ſea lavender is ſeen below the old dock, and the ſmall candy madder in profuſion on the above hill.

SHEERNESS.

AS Sheerneſs is within ſight of, and forms, as it were, a ſupplement to Chatham, the reader will be gratified with knowing ſomething of this port. Sheerneſs, ſeated on a point of Shepey iſland, where the Weſt Swale or Medway falls into the Thames, is of modern date, owing its preſent ſtate to Charles II.'s improvements. There is little notice taken of it previous to the depredations committed upon our ſhipping by the Dutch admiral de Ruyter; yet then it is evident there was a dock and naval ſtation, for that brave enemy found here fortifications and ſtore-houſes; the former he blew up, and the latter burnt, though defended by the gallant Sir Edward Spragge. After this diſaſtrous event, Sheerneſs was better defended; a line of heavy cannon now commands the mouth of the river, bidding defiance to all our foreign enemies. The town has increaſed to ſeveral ſtreets, but none reſide in them except ſuch who have particular buſineſs in the place: houſes are ſo ſcarce, that

that many of the hulls of old veſſels are converted into dwellings; and a ſingle ſhip contains a great number of inhabitants, making a very ſingular appearance.

Sheerneſs ſuperſeded Queenborough, alſo in the iſle of Shepey, but more ſouth, built by Edward III. to ſecure the Medway, and its ſituation is far better adapted for the purpoſe: the yard for building veſſels, with a dock intended chiefly for repairing ſhips in caſe of ſudden accidents, and for building others of ſmaller dimenſion than thoſe at Chatham, make this an appendage to that place. The greateſt inconvenience it ſuſtained was a want of freſh water: Sheerneſs was ſupplied with this abſolutely neceſſary article from Chatham. To rectify this great inconvenience, the marquis of Townſhend, maſter-general of the ordnance, as well as the whole board, and general Craig, governor of the garriſon, encouraged Sir Thomas-Hyde Page, as able as an engineer, as gallant as an officer, to undertake ſinking a well in Fort Townſhend. The experiments to try the different ſtrata, and preparing materials, commenced April 17, 1781: the well was begun June 4 following; and what does the greateſt credit to Sir Thomas, it was finiſhed July 4, 1784, though ſunk 330 feet deep. The water ruſhed in with ſuch velocity, that it was with difficulty the workmen eſcaped the torrent, which after its blowing up roſe forty feet from the bottom of the well, mixed with quickſand. In ſix hours it roſe 189 feet, and in a few days within eight feet of the top, and has never been lowered more than 200 feet, though conſtantly drawn out. The quality is remarkably good, being fine, ſoft, and, what is ſingular, a degree warmer than common well water; a circumſtance very beneficial, as the ſoldiers in garriſon at Dover caſtle often ſuffer from the very cold water drawn from that well. It is very extraordinary that in ſinking the well a piece of a tree was found at the depth of 300 feet. As this great acquiſition to Sheerneſs was obtained under the patronage of his majeſty, it has judiciouſly been called King's well. The ſovereign, when at Sheerneſs, viewing the undertaking, ordered Sir Thomas to continue the work to the utmoſt extent, as far as there remained a poſſibility of ſucceſs. Sir Thomas-Hyde Page thinks it ſtill capable of farther improvements, and no one can be ſo good a judge.

The number of ſhips at this ſtation is always very great. Here is an office for the ordnance under the inſpection of the ſame commiſſioner as Chatham, where there is an attendance often for many days together, when the fleet rendezvous at the Nore, to obſerve that each ſhip has its complement of military ſtores, and to

check the officers of the ſhips from taking more than what they ought. The principal ſervants of government are the clerk of the cheque, ſtore-keeper, maſter ſhipwright, clerk of ſurvey, maſter attendant, maſter ſhipwright's aſſiſtant, maſter calker, boatſwain, ſurgeon, and porter.

Hundred of Toltringtrow.

THE hundred of Toltringtrow, in the lath of Aylesford, is written in Domeſday-book Tollentru; other ancient deeds ſpell it Toltetern and Tollentr: the archbiſhops of Canterbury were lords of it in the reign of Edward I., anſwering for four knight's fees and an half, and containing the pariſhes of Luddeſdon, Meopham, Nutſted, Ifield, Milton, Graveſend, and Northfleet.

LUDDESDON.

THE pariſh of Luddeſdon, on the north of Birling, and to the weſt of Halling, generally called Luddeſdown, in Domeſday-book is written Ledeſdune; in the Textus Roffenſis, Hludeſdune; from leod, populous, dune, a peopled hill. The ſituation, as may be ſuppoſed, is elevated, extending from north to ſouth only two miles, and not one from eaſt to weſt: though it has two villages, each of the ſame name, yet from the poverty of the ſtony ſoil, and detached ſituation, it is little known, and leſs frequented.

At the Conqueſt Ralph Fitz-Turold held this manor of the biſhop of Bayeux earl of Kent: under the Confeſſor it had been part of the great poſſeſſions of earl Leuuin. It is remarkable that ſo very inconſiderable a ſpot ſhould have been conſtantly owned by a ſucceſſion of great families: from the Giffards it went to the Montchenſies, whoſe heireſs Dioniſia took it to the Veres earls of Oxford, and by other females to the Valences and Haſtings, earls of Haſtings, and lord Grey of Ruthin; who becoming a priſoner to Owen Glendower, the Welch rebel chieftain, this manor, to raiſe money towards his ranſom, was ſold to that great warrior Thomas Montacute earl of Saliſbury, who left it his natural ſon, buried in this church: he conveyed it to the great Nevil family, earls of Weſtmorland, ſince barons of Abergavenny, one of whom ſome years ago diſpoſed of it to the Braſiers. The manor is now poſſeſſed by Mr. John Walter, who holds a court baron as a member

member of Swanſcombe, parcel of the ancient barony of Montchenſie; it pays an annual rent inſtead of guard duty to Rocheſter caſtle.

Great or South Buckland, a manor held by William de Lodeſden in Edward I.'s reign, as three parts of a knight's fee, of the heirs of Warine de Montchenſie: he gave the corn tithe of it to the nunnery of Malling, at the time his daughter Joice became a nun there, and an acre of land to build a barn upon; a gift ſo conſiderable, that it was confirmed by Richard Wendover and Hamo Noble biſhops of Rocheſter, and Simon, Theobald, and Hubert, archbiſhops of Canterbury. A family afterwards poſſeſſed this manor, who adopted the ſurname of Buckland: their heireſs took it to the Polleys or Polhills; who conveyed their intereſt to the family of the preſent poſſeſſor, Thomas Whitaker, of Trotteſcliffe, Eſq., who holds a court baron for the manor. The remains of the chapel of Dowdes ſtand about a quarter of a mile from the manor-houſe.

This pariſh, in the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter, is a rectory in the gift of Edward Barrett, Eſq., and valued in the king's books at 11*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is ſmall: the Rev. William Thomſon, S. T. P., is rector. Mr. Stephen Thornton, who held this living from 1681 to his death in 1744, will long be remembered with grateful reſpect by the numerous families, whoſe relations received moſt excellent educations under his tuition.

M E O P H A M.

TO the weſt of Luddeſdon is Meopham, anciently Meapaham, now pronounced Mepham; twenty-four miles from London, and nine from Dartford, extending five miles from north to ſouth, and almoſt three from eaſt to weſt; containing 5700 acres of land, let from 5*s.* to 30*s.* per acre, forty-eight houſes, 117 families, and 612 ſouls; moſtly conſiſting of perſons engaged in agriculture or weaving, and all profeſſing the eſtabliſhed religion. This diſtrict is diverſified with hills and vallies; the former chalky and ſterile, the latter plow land, varied with coppices of beech, birch, and ſtunted oak: to the north it has the ſmall hamlets of Mellaker, Hook-green, and Camer; to the ſouth Pitfield-green, Prieſt-wood, and Culverſtone-green,; and in the ſouth-eaſt Harefield.

The extenſive eſtates included in the manor were in various hands; for duke Eadulf gave that part which he had received from Athelſtan, by leave of that ſovereign, in

940,

940, to the priory of Chriſt-church, in Canterbury: Edgiva, the widowed mother of his ſucceſſors Edmund and Edred, in 961 granted other lands. Britrick and his wife Elfswithe united in deviſing the remainder to the ſame monaſtery; the latter lady, to ſhow her zeal, gave thirty marks of gold to the archbiſhop, and thirty marks, a necklace value twenty, and two ſilver cups, to the convent. Edward II. granted free warren of all the demeſne, and Henry VI. a weekly Saturday's market, and an yearly fair on the feaſt of St. Peter and St. Paul. At the diſſolution Henry VIII. gave it to the dean and chapter of Canterbury. Mr. John Market is the leſſee, and reſides in the court-lodge, which his father rebuilt. The manor and royalties are retained by the dean and chapter, who hold courts leet and baron.

Dodmore, a manor long poſſeſſed by the knightly family of Huntingfield, after a great variety of proprietors came to Mr. George Lattenden, of Frindſbury, by whom it was deviſed to the preſent owner, Mr. Thomas Elliot, who holds a court baron.

Dean-court is an eſtate owned by the family of Twitham. Adam de Twitham was amongſt the Kentiſh gentlemen who attended Richard I. at the ſiege of Açon, in Paleſtine: an heireſs of one of them, in Richard II.'s reign, took it to the Septvans, who from their ſeat in Aſh were called at Chequer, and afterwards for a gallant ſervice of one of them at Harfleet, in Normandy, under Henry V., took the ſurname of that place; the family of Septivan alias Harfleet, parted with it in Charles I.'s reign: it is now owned by Richard Gee, Eſq., who has taken the name of Carew.

George Smith, Eſq., reſides in a handſome ſeat of his at Camer.

Meopham, a vicarage, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter and deanry of Shoreham, is a peculiar of Canterbury, and in the gift of that ſee: it is valued in the king's books at 16*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* The large, handſome church, ſtanding in the centre of the pariſh, is dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt. The vicar receives all the tithes, corn excepted, 30*l.* a year from the leſſee of the parſonage, and an annual penſion of 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from the dean and chapter. The Rev. John Smedley is vicar.

Simon Meopham, who became archbiſhop of Canterbury in 1327, was a native of this place. This pariſh contributed towards the repair of the ninth pier of Rocheſter bridge.

NUTSTED.

TO the north of Meopham is Nutſted, uſually called Nurſted, written in Domeſday-book Noteſtede, in the Textus Roffenſis, Hnutſtede. This pariſh, not a mile each way, contains only five dwellings, lies high, and has arable, orchard, hop, and wood land.

The manor prior to the Conqueſt was held of Edward the Confeſſor, by Ulſtan; after by Wardard, of biſhop Odo. In king John's reign the de Nutſteds poſſeſſed it as one knight's fee of the barony of Arſic, and ſuperior to that of the caſtle of Dover, by the ſervice of keeping ward. The de Graveſends held it for ſome ages; two of them were Richard and Stephen de Graveſend, uncle and nephew, ſucceſſively biſhops of London. In this century it was divided into four parts by coheireſſes; now the whole, by purchaſe, centres in Mr. Henry Edmeads, who reſides here.

Nutſted, a rectory within the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter, is a diſcharged living of the clear yearly certified value of 30*l.*, excluſive of lands purchaſed by queen Anne's bounty, and in the gift of the Boteler family. The advowſon is appendant upon the manor. The Rev. William Crakelt is the preſent incumbent.

Even this very ſmall pariſh had its chapel, the ruins of which adjoin the court-lodge.

IFIELD.

TO the north of Nutſted is Ifield, written in the Textus Roffenſis, Iuelda, in records, Yelesfelde; a pariſh ſtill more inconſiderable than the laſt deſcribed, not containing 300 acres of land, and having only ten dwellings. The Roman road is viſible at Shinglewell, anciently Shanecemcewell-ſtreet, leading from Springhead, in Southfleet, to Cobham-park and Rocheſter: bye roads go from hence to that city, and alſo to Graveſend, from which it is diſtant only between two and three miles. The land is chalky and barren, a fine ſandy, hazel mould, or clay upon the chalk: the air is good.

The manor called Hever-court, from the family who owned and reſided here, obtained from Edward III. a market to be held at Shinglewell, and two yearly fairs, one at Michaelmas for five, and the other on St. Laurence's feaſt for three days. The anceſtors of John Toke, Eſq., the preſent owner, obtained this manor and

and eſtate by deſcent and purchaſe. Mr. Benjamin Hubble reſides here, letting his own manſion to the Rev. John Tucker, rector of Graveſend, who makes it a ſeminary for young gentlemen.

This rectory, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter and deanry of Shoreham, is a peculiar of Canterbury, of the certified yearly value of 26*l.* 10*s.*, and was augmented with Nutſted; it has the ſame patron and incumbent.

MILTON.

FARTHER north is Milton, on the Kentiſh ſhore of the Thames, the Meletune or Middletown of Domeſday-book, from lying between Graveſend and Chalk: to diſtinguiſh it from the two other places of the name in this county, it is uſually written Milton near Graveſend. The dimenſions of this pariſh are ſmall, extending only a mile and half from north to ſouth, and a third leſs from the other points, containing about 1100 acres of land, of which fifty are marſh. In the account of Graveſend other particulars will be given of this place, as incorporated with it; obſerving, however, that Milton has a fair commencing on the converſion of St. Paul, which continues a week.

The manor, once Odo's biſhop of Bayeux, and earl of Kent, at his diſgrace went into other hands, and generally followed the deſcent of that of Luddeſdon, until ſold towards raiſing money for the liberation of Reginald lord Grey of Ruthin, after which it ſeldom has remained long in the ſame family. The late Michael Bedell, Eſq., who died in 1795, left this manor to his executor; but Mr. Weſton reſides in the court-lodge, rebuilt ſome years ago by Mr. Peter Moulſon, of London, a former owner, who alſo greatly improved the ground.

Paddock or Parrocks, is another manor, part of the poſſeſſions of the de Graveſends, of whom Edward III. purchaſed it, to give to the monaſtery of St. Mary Graces, near the Tower: at the Reformation Henry VIII. granted it out for lives, and James I. paſſed away the fee to Mr. William Salter. For a century the eſtate has been poſſeſſed by the Cooſens, the laſt of whom died in 1779, leaving an only child, a daughter; and ſince 1695 the manor, ſeparated from the eſtate, has been veſted in the corporation of Graveſend by the gift of George Etkins, Eſq., a jurat. The town-hall, market-yard, free-ſchool, wharf or quay, ferry to Tilbury, with thirty-three houſes chiefly in Eaſt-ſtreet, and on the eaſt ſide of high-ſtreet, all in

Graveſend, belong to this manor, the court baron of which is held in the town-hall of that place.

This pariſh, in the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter, has a venerable church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, repaired and beautified in 1792, at the expenſe of 650*l.* The creſts of our kings from Edward III. to James I. are painted upon the walls. This rectory was given to its own chapel and chantry, or college for prieſts, dedicated to the bleſſed Virgin, ſituate on the weſt ſide of the pariſh, founded and endowed by Aymer de Valence earl of Pembroke, in the reign of Edward I., and confirmed by Hamo Noble called de Hythe, valued at the diſſolution at 6*l.* 8*s.* Henry VIII. gave it to Sir Thomas Wyat. The rectory is now valued at 16*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*: the preſent incumbent is the Rev. William Crawford, alſo rector of Trotteſcliffe, and chaplain to the biſhop of Rocheſter.

GRAVESEND.

MORE to the weſt, bounded alſo by the Thames, is Graveſend, the Graveſham of Domeſday-book, and Graveſænde of the Textus Roffenſis, derived from the Saxon gerefa, and German greve, ruler or portreeve, and ham, a place. The pariſh is near a mile to the north of the London road, from which the town, on the banks of the river, is twenty-two miles, and eight from Rocheſter.

The town of Graveſend, lying upon a declivity, is ſmall, but populous, containing about 700 houſes, crowded together; which is the more extraordinary, as the conflagration happening between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, on Auguſt 24, 1727, deſtroyed the church and 110 houſes, and gave the inhabitants an opportunity to rebuild the whole in a far more commodious manner: the wonder is, how the inhabitants dare live in houſes built of wood, as moſt of them are, when ſo much miſchief has ariſen by fires; for in May 1731, ſeven houſes were burnt; and November 9, 1748, ſeveral others, by a warehouſe in which pitch, tar, roſin, &c. were lodged, taking fire; perhaps the whole place would have been conſumed, had not one of the houſes accidentally blown up, having a great quantity of gunpowder in it. The devaſtation in 1727 nearly ruined the unhappy ſufferers; but the mayor and jurats, wiſely making immediate application to the ſurrounding corporations, clergy, and others, relief was given ſufficient to alleviate, though not wholly to compenſate their misfortunes.

The

The narrow ſtreets, until the thirteenth year of his preſent majeſty's reign, were ſo entirely filthy, that the place was never frequented by any but perſons obliged by buſineſs; now it is paved and lighted much in the ſame manner as the other corporate towns in Kent: from the great increaſe of trade, no doubt other great improvements will be made. Weſt-ſtreet, and the weſt ſide of High-ſtreet, are in Graveſend pariſh; the remainder is chiefly in that of Milton. The pariſhes of Graveſend and Milton, incorporated by Henry IV., were confirmed in their privileges by queen Elizabeth, who changed the name of their chief magiſtrate from portreeve to mayor, under whom are twelve jurats and twenty-four common-councilmen, a recorder, high ſteward, chamberlain, town clerk, and ſergeant at mace. The mayor and deputy mayor are choſen from the jurats on the Monday after St. Michael; the mayor, and generally the eldeſt jurat, act as a juſtice of peace within the limits of the corporation. This body politic has little authority as lord of the manor of Milton. The lord of the manor of Graveſend formerly held courts of the water to regulate the carriage between Graveſend and London; he was obliged, with the people of Milton, to repair the cauſeway and bridge: theſe powers and obligations are now neither exerciſed nor demanded. The city of London regulates the paſſage from hence, though their port comes only to the extremity of the town. The marſh land extending from Graveſend bridge to the mouth of the Medway, and to Higham marſhes, is within the juriſdiction of the commiſſion of ſewers, who meet at Rocheſter when buſineſs requires. The market days are Wedneſday and Saturday. Edward III. gave them two annual fairs, which are held on April 23 and October 24, each continuing a week; horſes, black cattle, clothes, toys, and other articles, are brought to them: the profits ariſing from theſe fairs belong to the lord of the manor.

The moſt conſpicuous building in the place is the town-hall, ſupported upon pillars. In the front is—"This building was erected in the year 1764. John "Delap, Eſq., mayor; C. Sloane, archt." The ſchool adjoining was founded and endowed by Mr. David Vachall, who died in 1703: twenty boys, half from Graveſend and half from Milton, are clothed and inſtructed. The eſtate given for this and other charitable purpoſes, amounts to 67*l.* 8*s.* and Mr. James Fry in 1710 left an annual rent charge of 14*l.* 10*s.* for the education of ten other boys; four to be taken from Graveſend, four from Milton, and two from Cliff.

The poor's-houſe, a plain brick edifice, is very properly at ſome diſtance from the

the town. Over the entrance is, " This building was erected in the year 1797: " George Thompſon, Samuel Mann, churchwardens; William Smith, Alexander " Suttie, overſeers. *Beatus qui egentium habet rationem.*"

Graveſend has a very large diſtillery, lately taken by Mr. Brenchley, and a conſiderable brewery. Machines, and every other accommodation for ſea-bathing, have lately been eſtabliſhed near the town. In the pariſhes of Graveſend and Milton there are as much as ſeventy acres of land uſed by gardeners, who chiefly raiſe aſparagus, which is in higher eſtimation than even that of Batterſea: they raiſe after-crops upon the beds, generally peas. The quantity of vegetables raiſed is of the utmoſt uſe to the ſhipping outward bound, and to the neighbouring country. It is remarkable that this place was as much deficient in vegetables as is it now abundant: ſome time back the people did not raiſe ſufficient for their own uſe; now London, the ſhipping, and neighbourhood, have great ſupplies of theſe neceſſary articles from hence.

This place has long been of conſequence from its ſituation. Richard II. in 1377, commanded beacons to be erected here, and at Farndon, in Eſſex, the oppoſite ſhore. Theſe precautions were rendered uſeleſs by the ſupineneſs of the Engliſh, and the temerity of the French, who ſoon after having taken Winchelſea, and burnt Appledore, Rye, Haſtings, and Portſmouth, came hither, September 8, 1384, with four gallies, and finding it equally neglected, ſet fire to and burnt a great part of the town, tranſporting to France the unfortunate inhabitants, and the plunder they had obtained, and, what is almoſt incredible, without being oppoſed; a circumſtance diſgraceful to the nation.

Henry VIII. built two bulwarks or platforms, mounting upon them cannon, as a defence to the Thames; one was at Graveſend, the other lower on the river, near Milton: and in 1782 an act of parliament was procured for the better ſecuring the Thames at this town, and Tilbury. The governor of Graveſend is major-general Thomas Muſgrave; the appointment is 300*l.* per annum: the lieutenant-governor is the hon. James de Courcy, who has 182*l.* 10*s.*

To compenſate and encourage the unhappy townſmen of Graveſend and Milton for their misfortune by the French, Richard II. gave to the convent of St. Mary Graces, in which the manor was veſted, the excluſive privilege of conveying all paſſengers going from thoſe places to London by water, provided that they procured a ſufficient number of boats, and charged only 2*d.* for each perſon, and any bundle

bundle ſuch paſſenger had; nor more than 4*s.* for the uſe of the whole boat. The charter was frequently confirmed by ſucceeding monarchs. It is now called the long ferry; no more is paid for each paſſenger than 9*d.*, nor 10*s.* 6*d.* for the whole veſſel: theſe are called the tilt-boats, and are large and convenient for the purpoſe; they appear for ages to have been capable of carrying many paſſengers. October 25, 1553, a tilt-boat was overſet by a "catch" running againſt it, and fourteen perſons drowned; the remaining ſixteen ſaved themſelves by ſwimming. March 5, 1576, in the night, "through a great flaw of wind," in the north-weſt, a tilt-boat, with about thirty-one perſons of both ſexes, coming from Graveſend, were all, except a boy, drowned. May 4, 1591, another tilt-boat with forty perſons, being overrun by a hoy, the greater part of the paſſengers were drowned near Greenwich, whilſt the court were there, which greatly frighted her majeſty queen Elizabeth, who we muſt ſuppoſe ſaw the cataſtrophe. December 23, 1599, the violent weſt by ſouth wind, which did ſo much miſchief on land, occaſioned a tilt-boat coming from London to Graveſend to be loſt near Woolwich, and only eleven out of thirty perſons were ſaved.

There is a bell rung for a quarter of an hour previous to theſe boats leaving; and though they go every flood to London, and return every ebb by a like ſignal, it is incredible the number of paſſengers that are each time conveyed by theſe veſſels to and from that great mart of commerce.

As the port of London terminates at Graveſend bridge, there is a cuſtom-houſe eſtabliſhed, where two principal ſearchers attend, who viſit all outward-bound ſhips, which are obliged to anchor in the road before the town, but thoſe ſailing to London are ſuffered to paſs without any examination, unleſs they are in want of tide-waiters. Moſt of the former here complete their cargoes, and take in proviſions: it is alſo the rendezvous of the Dutch turbot-veſſels, by which London is ſupplied with that commodity.

The concourſe and buſtle ariſing from this, with the paſſengers, horſes, cattle, and carriages to and from the Eſſex ſide in ferries, the number of ſtage-coaches, travellers of all ſorts, even the moſt indigent, to the number of 8 or 900, who gain here, for a trifling ſum, a paſſage to London, make this place all activity; equally profitable to the tradeſmen and the inn-keepers. Graveſend was formerly honoured by the preſence of all the great paſſing to or coming from the continent, the road to Dover then going through it. The cuſtom of having regular ambaſſa-

dors reſident in the courts of potentates in friendſhip with them, becoming eſtabliſhed in the reign of Elizabeth, it was neceſſary to fix preciſe regulations, to prevent giving any umbrage to the diplomatic corps: for this reaſon her majeſty commanded that all illuſtrious perſonages and ambaſſadors coming by water, ſhould be received at this place by the lord mayor of London, aldermen, and companies in their formalities in their barges: the ambaſſadors and their ſuite being conveyed in the royal ones, were landed at the Tower wharf, where a deputation of noblemen awaited their arrival, and the carriages of the ſovereign and others attended to convey them to their lodgings. Before this time, however, princes or their repreſentatives were honourably received at Graveſend. December 27, 1555, in the reign of queen Mary, Emanuel Philibert duke of Savoy, with other great foreigners in his train, were received here by the lord privy ſeal and others, who conducted them by water under London bridge to Weſtminſter: and on January 9 following, the prince of Orange was conveyed from this place in a veſſel, and landed at the duke of Suffolk's town reſidence, which was built upon the bank of the Thames.

As ſo many illuſtrious ſtrangers were conſtantly coming to Graveſend, it is extraordinary that our ſovereigns did not build a ſuitable edifice to receive them. When we recollect that queen Elizabeth received an embaſſy from France conſiſting of 300 perſons, all of whom paſſed through this place, we wonder how they could be accommodated, eſpecially when joined by thoſe deputed to conduct them to London, which, excluſive of the corporation of the city, often conſiſted of many noblemen, courtiers, maſter of the ceremonies, and attendants.

To attempt giving a detail of the different ambaſſadors who ſtopped at Graveſend would be tedious: Sir John Finett's Philoxenſis mentions many in the reigns of James I. and Charles I.; and by Whitlock it is obvious that during the Uſurpation the ſame practice continued. The ambaſſadors having encroached upon queen Elizabeth's regulations, by obtaining attendance beyond Graveſend, Charles I. ordered that no ambaſſador ſhould be met beyond this town: ſoon after, that no nobleman ſhould attend an embaſſy more diſtant than Greenwich, and ſome time before the civil war commenced, that ambaſſadors ſhould defray every expenſe of conveyance, board, and lodging. King Charles was frugal from inclination and neceſſity.

On July 17, 1606, Chriſtian IV. king of Denmark, with eight ſhips, containing ſix of his great officers of ſtate, and a moſt ſplendid retinue, came to Graveſend on

 their

their way to London to viſit our ſovereign James I., whoſe conſort was this monarch's brother: the news reaching London, the duke of Lenox and other noblemen came to pay their reſpects to his majeſty, but not arriving till eleven at night, and finding they could not be introduced, returned to town. The next morning king James, Henry prince of Wales, the duke of Lenox, the lord admiral, lord chamberlain; the earls of Rutland, Pembroke, and Montgomery; lords Mounteagle, Compton, and many other earls and barons, went by water from Greenwich to Graveſend. The king of Denmark, when they came near, intended to leave his ſhip to conduct his brother-in-law and nephew to it; but finding that the ſtairs were too narrow for more than one to aſcend or deſcend, he remained on board, where he received the illuſtrious company with the greateſt courteſy, taking each nobleman by the hand, kiſſing his nephew the prince of Wales, and embracing our ſovereign, whom he led to his cabin, beautifully adorned, giving his Britannic majeſty the upper hand. The Engliſh nobility were honourably feaſted in another part of the ſhip. After dinner the Daniſh and Britiſh navies announced the ſovereigns' taking their barges by a diſcharge, every veſſel they met doing the ſame, until they came to Greenwich, where the privy council waited to receive the monarchs.

Graveſend exhibited a more ſplendid ſight at Chriſtian's return. James having given a naval entertainment at Chatham to that king, they, queen Anne, prince Henry, and many of the nobility, came the following day, Monday, Auguſt 11, to this place, and went on board the largeſt ſhip of Denmark, where it rode at anchor. This veſſel "was a gallant ſhip of very high and narrow build-"ing;" the beak-head, ſtern, and three gallies, were finely gilt; the waiſt and half-deck were adorned with arras and other rich ornaments. The great perſonages and their ſuites went on board at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and were very royally feaſted; the drums and trumpets proclaiming the mutual pledges of affectionate regard, were anſwered by the cannon of the admiral's ſhip, ſeconded by the block-houſes, followed by the vice-admiral's, and other Daniſh ſhips. James roſe at four o'clock to take leave; Chriſtian preſſed his majeſty to remain until the evening, as he had fireworks to amuſe him; but the Britiſh monarch excuſing his departure, the pageant was immediately played off, though the ſun would much injure the effect. The device was the ſeven deadly ſins, chained to four circular pillars, bound with a chain, which a couchant lion over them held, threatening,

by the fire vomited from his mouth, inſtant deſtruction; at length the vengeance commenced, and in a quarter of an hour the fiends were conſumed amidſt a conſtant noiſe, occaſioned by exploding gunpowder. The lion couchant being king James's device, the pageantry was meant as a compliment to his ſuppoſed virtue, in having overcome all the ſeven deadly ſins. On Wedneſday the king of Denmark went a little lower down the river, and on Thurſday ſetting ſail, he arrived in eight days in his own dominions, the winds favouring him the whole time.

Frederic elector Palatine, coming to eſpouſe the princeſs Elizabeth, daughter of James I., landed at Graveſend on the evening of Friday, October 16, 1612: his highneſs was welcomed by lord Hay, attended by Sir Lewis Lewkner, maſter of the ceremonies; and on Sunday again by the duke of Lenox, attended by many noblemen, knights, and gentlemen, belonging to the court: ſoon after he left this place, and was conducted with the utmoſt ſplendour and feſtivity by water to the palace of Whitehall.

The Daniſh monarch came again to England to viſit the Britiſh court: he landed at Yarmouth, came to London July 22, bringing with him only forty noblemen and attendants, and after ſpending his time in every kind of pleaſure, accompanied by king James and prince Charles, he took barge early in the morning of Auguſt 1; after viewing Woolwich dock, he went to Graveſend: the royal brothers with the prince dined at an inn, whoſe ſign was the Ship. After dinner they went aboard the Daniſh king's ſhip, where they ſtayed two hours. James taking leave, went into his own barge, and returning to Blackwall, where his ſuite waited to receive him, he went to Theobalds, and thence begun his progreſs, leaving the prince of Wales with his majeſty of Denmark, who the next day conducted him to Rocheſter to view the new ſtately ſhip the Prince: coming again to Graveſend, he dined there; after which the prince accompanied his uncle to his ſhip, and there taking his leave, returned to London that night. The next day Chriſtian, with his three fine ſhips, ſet ſail, and ſafely regained his native ſhore. There was ſome ſimilarity of character between the Daniſh and Britiſh monarchs, in a love of ſplendour and laviſh profuſion: James was ſober, Chriſtian indulged in wine to the greateſt exceſs. If the Engliſh did not admire Chriſtian as an accompliſhed man, they loved him as a condeſcending and liberal monarch.

We have ſeen that Charles I. when prince of Wales was at Graveſend; ſoon after his acceſſion he came by water in his way to Canterbury to meet his bride Henrietta,

Henrietta, a daughter of France; and May 23, 1625, the marriage was conſummated in that city. The next day they removed to Cobham, from thence to Graveſend, with a moſt numerous train of ladies, noblemen, knights, and gentlemen, both French and Engliſh. They were welcomed by the ordnance, and the guns in the different ſhips ſtationed there. This was as ſplendid an aſſemblage as moſt that our annals record; but Sir John Finett ſays, it was as ill conducted, owing to the want of order and regularity, which ſhould, on ſuch occaſions, be particularly obſerved. Amongſt the illuſtrious ſtrangers, the moſt conſpicuous were, the French ambaſſador, the duke de Chevereux and his dutcheſs. Here the royal pair took ſhipping, and landed at the privy ſtairs, Whitehall.

There is no better ſecurity for the proſperity of towns than keeping good roads: the profit ariſing from theſe illuſtrious ſtrangers, and indeed of all kinds of paſſengers by land, muſt have been very great, when this was the direct road from London to Dover: the chalk pits, which will be noticed when we ſpeak of Northfleet, at length rendered the great road ſo dangerous, that, after repeatedly changing it farther from Graveſend, it is now half a mile to the eaſt of the town, from whence a lane leads to it by queen Mary's green. This town gave name to a family famed for the prelates it produced: Richard de Graveſend biſhop of Lincoln in 1258; Richard de Graveſend biſhop of London, 1282; and Stephen de Graveſend, his nephew and ſucceſſor in that ſee. They and their anceſtors owned eſtates in the pariſh.

Odo, the diſturber of England's peace, owned the manor of Graveſend; but was deprived of it in 1083; when, veſting in the crown, it was granted as part of a knight's fee to the Cramaville family, held by the ſervice of contributing to defend Dover caſtle, and thither thrice in each year the tenants of this town repaired to perform the duty of warding. Reverting again to the crown, Edward III. granted the place to the Uffords, of whom that ſovereign afterwards purchaſing, gave, and Richard II. confirmed it, to the Ciſtertian abbey of St. Mary Graces, near the Tower. After the diſſolution it was leaſed, until queen Elizabeth granted the fee to Robert earl of Leiceſter, who diſpoſed of it to Sir Thomas Gawdie and James Morice: Sir Thomas having purchaſed the ſhare of Morice, conveyed the whole to William lord Cobham: at the attainture of lord Cobham James I. granted it to the duke of Richmond and Lenox. At the extinction of thoſe titles in the Stuart family, the manor came by purchaſe to Sir Joſeph Williamſon, who married the ſiſter of the laſt duke; at Sir Joſeph's death it came to the ennobled family of

Bligh, in the ſame manner as Cobham-hall; and the earl of Darnley is the preſent lord of the manor, and the hereditary high ſteward of the town and corporation of Graveſend.

This pariſh is in the dioceſe and deanry of Rocheſter; the moſt ancient church was burnt down in 1509: another, dedicated to St. Mary, was conſecrated April 3, 1510: this mean ſtructure was deſtroyed in the fire of 1727. An act paſſed in 1731 for rebuilding it, and having been claſſed as one of the fifty new ones, 5000*l.* was given towards it. Sir Roger Meredith, M. P., laid the firſt ſtone June 3, and in compliment to the king's name it was dedicated to St. George. It is a neat brick edifice, with ſtone quoins and cornices, having a muſical peal of eight bells, purchaſed by ſubſcription. The organ was erected in 1764 at the expenſe of 100*l.*, bequeathed for that purpoſe by Mr. John Iſon. The pariſh is a rectory, valued in the king's books at 15*l.* The patronage was appendant upon the manor until loſt by forfeiture to James I.; ſince, it has remained in the crown. The preſent incumbent is the Rev. John Tucker, A. M., alſo rector of Luddenham.

There was a chapel, dedicated to St. George, conſecrated April 2, 1510, which never had the privilege of performing the rites of baptiſm and ſepulture: the remains of this deſecrated building, lately modernized, have long been uſed for purpoſes very different from the original intention, much to the inconvenience of the people in that part of the pariſh in which it ſtands.

Graveſend has now a ſhip-yard; Mr. Cleverly, the owner, has frequently built large men of war in it; a circumſtance of great advantage to the town, and from the increaſe of our fleets likely to become more ſo.

There are dug innumerable foſſils from the chalk quarries, principally of the echinus ſpecies, alſo gloſſa petra, of the fineſt poliſh, and ſharp as thorns; in the ſtrata of flints, knapped for the uſe of guns, are ſometimes cockleſhells of ſo large a ſize as to be highly prized by naturaliſts.

Theſe rare plants are found near Graveſend—the round ſalt marſh cyperus, ſea lavender, both below the town; great and ſmall ſea ſtarwort, near the block-houſe; the male, female, ſmall-ground, and ivy-ground pine milkwort; baſtard hemp of various kinds, both in and round the town; traveller's joy in the hedges, and marſh aſparagus on the banks of the Thames.

Three large fiſhes called whirlepooles, taken here October 7, 1552, were drawn to Weſtminſter bridge; and a whale was caught a little below the town Auguſt 30, 1718, which was forty feet in length.

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This town, diſagreeable as it is, has the pleaſanteſt walks around it that can be imagined: the cultivation of the garden ground may be well placed in oppoſition to the romantic and terrific chaſms of the chalk quarries: aſcending towards the windmill hills, as high as the public houſe, towards the north is one of the fineſt views that imagination can paint; it ſeems enchantment—towards the weſt the auguſt Thames, widely expanding itſelf, exhibits to the wondering beholder a fine lake as it were, the town cutting off every communication, hiding the lower part of the river from view; the ſhips ſailing in becoming pride towards the world's grand magazine of commerce; ſloops, hoys, tilt-boats, veſſels of all ſizes, containing perſons and properties of all deſcriptions, make it a buſy, changing, never-ending variety: on the oppoſite ſhore the magnificent fort of Tilbury, a large diſtinct object ſtanding upon the banks of the river, with the land gently riſing, ſpotted with its villages, and whitened by ſpires, the whole terminating in hills, clothed with woods. Leaving this bewitching view, and looking towards the eaſt, the ſight is, if poſſible, more gratified: a prodigious eſtuary, rather than a river, preſents itſelf, extending beyond the naked eye, with ſhips, ſome juſt turning a point of land, others loſing themſelves in the diſtant proſpect; the Kentiſh landſcape varying from the rich cultivated gardens to the paſturage and wood, all tend to diverſify the beautiful whole; nothing heightening the ſcenery more than the broken clefted chalk hills, ſeemingly ſet detached, and rudely formed, ſtretching themſelves into the river. Few ſpots in the iſland, or in Europe, can vie with this.

A tunnel is projected from this place to Tilbury-fort, to paſs under the Thames, forming a land junction of Kent to Eſſex: the idea would have appeared ridiculous a century ago. The inland navigations of theſe kingdoms evince that not only hills may be excavated or perforated, but that rivers may be paſſed under their beds. The ſouterrain intended between the North and South Shields, near the mouth of the Tyne, probably gave riſe to this ſcheme of Mr. Dodd's. The expenſe eſtimated is ſo inconſiderable, that the whole would be ſaved to government in three years, in barges and other navigable charges. The chalk, extending a conſiderable way from the Kent ſide, makes the practicability the greater. The tunnel is intended to be thirty feet below the bed of the river, arched with brick, or, what is more durable, ſtone maſonry, ſufficiently capacious to admit every kind of carriage, and to be lighted with reflecting lamps. What a novel ſight will it be, to ſee a ſtage coach merge under the Thames in Kent, and emerge in Eſſex!

NORTHFLEET.

TO the weſt of Graveſend, alſo upon the banks of the Thames, is Northfleet; written Norfluet in Domeſday-book, and Northfleotu in the Textus Roffenſis, from a point of the compaſs, and fleet or arm of the river. The pariſh contains 3000 acres, 100 of which are wood: the unhealthineſs of the neighbouring marſhes is ſomewhat qualified by the great quantity of lime-kilns; yet ſtill it is far from ſalubrious. The ſoil at a diſtance from the Thames is a ſtiff loam, intermixed with gravel, and brings good crops: it is diverſified with gently riſing hills, and ſmall vallies. The north-weſt is ſo low that the high tides overflow it, and would extend even beyond the London road, if not prevented by the raiſed cauſeway, and the bridge, where the flood-gates make a barrier againſt the tides, which otherwiſe would deluge the marſh lands; the flood-gates ſerving alſo to let off the freſh water. This bridge, built at an early period, was taken down and rebuilt in 1634, which being found inconvenient, another has lately been erected in a ſtrait line with the road.

Mr. Pitcher has a ſhip-yard here; behind it is a ſpacious dock, capable of containing ſix or ſeven large ſhips, cut out of the ſolid chalk: the firſt veſſel ever built at Northfleet was the Royal Charlotte Eaſt Indiaman, launched November 2, 1789.

Beſides Northfleet, a village built round a green, it has the hamlets of Northfleet, Hythe, Perry-ſtreet, Wombwell-hall, the eſtate of Windfield-bank, near the pariſh of Southfleet, extending to the ſouth-eaſt, between thoſe of Ifield and Nutſted; the ſmall hamlets of Northfleet-green, Naſh-ſtreet, and part of Shinglewell-green.

Northfleet had once its Tueſday's market, from Eaſter to Whitſuntide, and three fairs, on St. Botolph's, March 24; Eaſter-Tueſday; and Whit-Tueſday.

If tradition may be depended upon, the valley through which the fleet or ſtream runs, once called Ebbsfleet, was formerly a large bay, bounded by hills. It is alſo believed that the Daniſh navy rode here during the winter; a circumſtance no way improbable, as at preſent the water by the cauſeway is prevented from overflowing this part of the river's bank, which might afford depth ſufficient for the mooring of the ſmall ſhips of thoſe piratical people.

The manor of Northfleet continued, from the Anglo-Saxon times to Henry VIII.'s reign as part of the revenues of the ſee of Canterbury; the ſucceeding ſovereigns gave leaſes of it. Charles II. diſpoſed of the quit-rents, valued at 50*l.* per annum, to the dean and chapter of Rocheſter; and in 1758 the manor was granted to William

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earl of Beſborough, at a fee-farm rent of 6*s.* 8*d.*: his lordſhip conveyed it and Ingreſs, in Swanſcombe, to John Calcraft, Eſq., at whoſe death, in 1772, the manor came, by his will, with his other Kentiſh eſtates, to the preſent proprietor, John Calcraft, Eſq. Some of the eſtates in this manor are copyhold.

Ifield-court, a manor giving name to a family, came to the Gerrards, the laſt of whom dying without male iſſue, his four daughters and coheirs joined in conveying it to the father of Mr. John Tilden, the preſent poſſeſſor, who makes it his reſidence.

Wombwell-hall, an ancient ſeat, uſually called Wimple-hall, was the reſidence of the Wombwells from a very early period. Until the reign of Charles I. the eſtate by purchaſe came to the Fortryes; thence, by deſcent, to Thomas Chiffinch, Eſq., and is now the property of Francis Wadman, Eſq., who was gentleman-uſher to the late princeſs Amelia, from his marriage with Miſs Mary Comyns, the niece and heir at law of the laſt owner. This manſion is rather more than a mile ſouth-eaſt of the church.

The Hive or Hythe was the ſeat of the Chiffinches for near a century, a family who were confidential and faithful ſervants of the crown in the worſt of times. At the return of legal government Thomas Chiffinch, Eſq., became principal ſearcher of the port of Graveſend, in which he was ſucceeded by a ſon of his names. His ſon, Thomas Chiffinch, Eſq., a barriſter at law, reſided here near fifty years; leaving no iſſue, he deviſed this, with his other eſtates, to the wife of Francis Wadman, Eſq., the owner of Ifield-court. The Hive or Hythe is near the Thames, a little to the north of the London road.

Ormus, known more generally by the name of Orme, is a handſome modern ſeat, the reſidence of Charles Lefevre, Eſq.

What makes this pariſh the moſt obſervable, is the chalk, long dug, which, either in its native ſtate or burnt into lime, is ſent to London, and even Holland and Flanders: the refuſe for manure is ſold in the counties of Eſſex, Suffolk, and Norfolk; forming as it were a compoſt, by the chalk breaking ſtrong clays, and making it work well. It is ſingular, that though chalk is of ſo ſterile a nature in itſelf, and the long ridge of hills in Kent, which contains no other ſubſtance, is barren and unproductive, yet when taken and put upon land of the moſt contrary nature, it very greatly aſſiſts vegetation.

The immenſe quarries from whence the chalk for ſo many ages has been taken,

are as terrific as dangerous, lying close to the north side of the village, from which they extend a quarter of a mile, and are bounded by the river: on this account it is that the London road has been changed more to the south. The quarries give employment to many, supporting numerous families. It is conveyed by land and water to the neighbourhood; but chiefly in vessels to Essex, to every creek of which boats of lime are taken.

Northfleet, in the diocese of Rochester and deanry of Shoreham, a peculiar of Canterbury, once a rectory, now a vicarage, is valued in the king's books at 21*l.*; archbishop Cranmer exchanged it with Henry VIII. The church is a very large structure, with many very ancient monumental memorials: the steeple was rebuilt in 1717, and the church beautified in the following year. The present incumbent is Gilbert Buchanan, L. L. B.

This parish anciently contributed towards repairing the ninth pier of Rochester bridge.

No other memorable circumstance is known of Northfleet, except that near the bridge a skirmish was fought between the royalists and republicans in the last century, when victory declared for the enemies of the constitution.

The orchis tribe, fond of chalky ground, even more than of the quarries near Maidstone, here flourish with the greatest luxuriance and variety; few flowers exceed them in beauty. Here are these kinds—orchis caryophillata spica longissima rubra; orchis magna latis foliis galea fusca vel nigricante; orchis antropophora oreades; the man orchis, with a ferruginous, and sometimes a green flower; orchis myodes galea et alis herbidis; common fly orchis: orchis sive testiculus vulpinus major spegodes; the humble-bee satyrion, with green wings. The first is found in chalky grounds and old pastures, lying between Northfleet and the river: the fourth kind on the chalk cliffs, though but seldom. Few flowers which the garden boasts equal the humble-bee orchis in beauty, which, notwithstanding the frequent assertions of botanical writers to the contrary, may, with others of the same tribe, be successfully cultivated in gardens, by removing them in the first instance with plenty of earth, taking care that the rude spade of the gardener does not reverse their situation in the ground when planted, or in future digging, as the root would then inevitably perish from its peculiarity, so different from any other bulb.

ESSEX.

Becontree Hundred.

THIS in Domeſday-book was called an hundred, but is now ſtyled a half hundred. It has few pariſhes, but they are large, and inhabited by ſome of London's richeſt merchants.

Becontree comes up to Bow-bridge, and almoſt Blackwall, near the capital: bounded on the weſt by the river Ley; on the ſouth by the Thames; on the eaſt and north-eaſt by the liberty of Havering; and on the north by the hundreds of Ongar and Waltham. It owes its name to a large beacon having been placed where Woodford windmill now ſtands. In ancient times, from the little communication, owing to extenſive foreſts, waſtes, and marſhes, with the badneſs of roads, ſuch ſignals were of the utmoſt conſequence. The name is written in Domeſday-book Beuentreu.

The nunnery of Barking had the entire juriſdiction of this hundred. At the diſſolution it was granted to Sir Thomas Fanſhaw, from whoſe family, by purchaſe, it went to Sir William Humphreys, Knt. and Bart.; his grand-daughter Ellen marrying Charles Gore, of Tring, Eſq., they united to diſpoſe of this hundred, and the fine eſtate they poſſeſſed in it, to Smart Lethieullier, Eſq., whoſe niece and heir took it to the Hulſe family, who now own it. The archdeacon of Eſſex has the ſpiritual juriſdiction. In this diviſion of the county are the pariſhes of Barking, Dagenham, Eaſt-Ham, Weſt-Ham, Leyton, Little Ilford, Wanſted, Walthamſtow, and Woodford.

BARKING.

THE pariſh of Barking, thirty miles in circumference, is bounded by thoſe of Eaſt-Ham, Little Ilford, Wanſted, Chigwell, and Dagenham, in Eſſex; and by that part of Woolwich which lies in Kent. The name has been very variouſly written; the word is derived from beorce, birch-tree, and ing, a meadow: the great quantity of birch-trees which grew here favour the conjecture. This extenſive diſtrict contains 7850 acres of land in cultivation, 1980 acres of which

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are marſh land; vegetables are ſo much cultivated, that 300 acres are potatoe ground, and 100 planted with cabbages and other garden productions; 250 upland meadow; fifty wood; and 5170 chiefly arable; about 1500 acres are in, and compoſe the greateſt part of, Hainault foreſt, parcel of that of Waltham. The ſmall river Roding, navigable as far as Ilford, riſes near Elſenham, on the north ſide of the county, and after running along the weſtern extremity of Barking, flows into the Thames. This pariſh has four wards; each ward its own officers. The town has two churchwardens and an overſeer; Ilford has one of each. Ripple and Chadwell have each an overſeer, but only one churchwarden for both. The land-tax is thus divided: Barking town raiſes 428*l.*; Great Ilford 500*l.* 11*s.*; Ripple 446*l.* 4*s.*; and Chadwell 116*l.* 8*s.*: each paying about 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound upon the average, except the firſt, which is rather more. In the ſeventeenth century it ſuffered very greatly by the plague, loſing in the years 1603, 1625, 1665, and 1666, no leſs than 1209 ſouls. In the eighteenth it increaſed two thirds, there being 750 houſes and 3906 inhabitants: the population has moſtly extended at Ilford. There are two chapels of eaſe in the pariſh.

The town of Barking lies about eight miles from London, on the banks of the Roding, at the mouth of a creek leading to the Thames, from whence various articles are brought up by water to the quay. The river dividing forms a long narrow iſlet oppoſite the town. This ſtream gives a ſecondary name to ſeveral places; High-Roding, Eythorp-Roding, Leaden-Roding, &c. Barking, deſtroyed by the Danes in 870, was rebuilt ſome years after. Its conſequence roſe and fell with the abbey; deprived of that protection, it has become the reſidence of fiſhermen only, whoſe ſmacks lie at the mouth of the Roding: they fiſh to Billingſgate; and ſince 1730, when the river was made navigable to Ilford, the barges ſupply the neighbourhood with coals, timber, and other commodities. The great flour-mill, which belonged to the convent ſtanding near the wharf, is now poſſeſſed by Edward Hulſe, Eſq., but uſed by Mr. Smith and others: it was ſo conſiderable in Henry VIII.'s reign, that it was let for 20*l.* *per annum*. The rich marſh land that renders this place ſo unwholeſome, and keeps the gentry from ſettling here, is at ſo low a rent, that it becomes valuable to the occupier; yet their poor are ſo burdenſome, that in 1787 they obtained an act of parliament to build a workhouſe upon an extenſive plan, placing it under the government of four guardians, annually elected from each ward, and veſted with the moſt ample power. The ſchool, founded by



Dayes del!

Owen sculp!

VIEW of FAIRLOP OAK.

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by Sir James Cambell, who died in 1641, having become ruinous, rooms are appropriated for the reception of forty boys and girls in this building, where they are educated, under the ſuperintendence of the guardians, who alſo have the diſpoſal of all other public benefactions bequeathed for the uſe of the poor. In Barking town are two meeting-houſes, one for quakers, the other intended for the methodiſts. Lying out of the great road, it is little frequented by ſtrangers; but there is not only a weekly Saturday's market, but an annual fair held on October 22: what is ſingular, the people hold another, without a charter, under the Fairlop oak, in the foreſt, on the firſt Friday in July; a cuſtom ſuppoſed to have ariſen from an eccentric character going thither to dine with his friends. This tree, of which a correct view is annexed, is the pride and glory of Barking, and not without reaſon; for the rough fluted ſtem, three feet from the ground, meaſures about thirty-ſix feet in girth; the boughs extend in circumference 300 feet; there was, till lately, a cloſe paling, five feet high, placed round to guard it. The bowmen, called Hainault foreſters, uſed, ſome years ſince, to meet under the wide-ſpreading ſhade of the Fairlop oak, to ſhow their dexterity in archery, once the ſtrength of Engliſhmen when led to the hoſtile plains. It muſt not be forgotten that Barking pariſh is peculiarly favourable for the growth of that uſeful root potatoes, three roods of which have produced 9*l.*, and a piece of land let for 4*l.* an acre has brought 20*l.* to the tenant.

As this town was only an appendage, as it were, to the rich monaſtery which became ſo famous, the lady abbeſs having all the inhabitants of it, and the reſt of the pariſh, her tenants, the hiſtory of the convent is peculiarly intereſting, and the more ſo, as it was the greateſt female abbey in England. This religious foundation will be firſt noticed, and afterwards the various manors and ſeats that are in the pariſh, and were parts of the barony belonging to the ſiſterhood.

The convent of Barking was founded about the year 670, by an illuſtrious Anglo-Saxon nobleman, Hodelred, father of Sebbi, who, with his relation Sigheard, reigned over the Eaſt Saxons: he gave the whole pariſh, with its manors, wards, hamlets, and lands, to the nuns of the order of St. Benedict, whom he placed here under the protection of the bleſſed Virgin: this was the firſt or ſecond nunnery erected in England. St. Erkenhwald, biſhop of London, alſo allied to king Sebbi, having promoted the pious work, has been generally ſuppoſed the founder: his ſiſter St. Ethelburgh, or Alburgh, was the firſt abbeſs. St. Hildelitha, who had

been ſent from France to inſtruct her in the duties of preſiding over the houſe, ſucceeded her: to theſe followed St. Oſwyth, daughter of Ethelfrid king of Northumberland, ſiſter of St. Ebba, and wife of Sigheard king of Eſſex; St. Ethelburgh, queen of Ina king of Weſſex; and Cuthburgh ſiſter of that ſovereign. Some time after the Danes deſtroyed the nunnery, which, after lying deſolate for an hundred years, was reſtored by Edgar, who made Wulfhild abbeſs; whoſe reſplendent beauty attracted the notice of every one. Edgar, the moſt amorous of princes, ſought gratification; to avoid the ſnare, ſhe threw herſelf into the religious houſe of Wilton: this was no protection to a ſovereign whoſe paſſions were ungovernable: ſhe was obliged to yield to diſhonour—the conſequence was the birth of a daughter, the equally attractive Edith. Stung with remorſe, Edgar, rebuilding Barking abbey, placed Wulfhild in it. After his death, the eccleſiaſtics having quarrelled with this lady, appealed to Elfrida, Edgar's dowager queen, who, probably to mortify one who had been ſo dear to her lord, diſplacing Wulfhild, took the government of the convent herſelf. The injured abbeſs retired to Horton, in Devonſhire, a nunnery of her own foundation, where, having preſided with great prudence for twenty years, the queen, her envious rival, being brought to a ſenſe of ſhame by a violent illneſs, reſtored her to the rank ſhe juſtly claimed at Barking. At the end of ſeven years this reſpectable character was obliged to ſeek ſafety in London from the pagan Danes, who under the heathen, barbarous Sweyn, threatened that ruin which Canute, his ſon, brought upon the family of Edgar: in that city ſhe died, and with ſo juſt a reputation, that ſhe added a fifth name to the beatified abbeſſes of Barking. Edith her daughter took the veil at Wilton, but died in the bloom of beauty at the age of twenty-three, and, like her mother, was diſtinguiſhed as a ſaint. Edith, when biſhop Ethelwold rudely attempted to check that love of ſplendour which perſonal charms, even in a convent, could not reſiſt, anſwered, "God "regarded the heart more than the garment, and that rags as well as robes could "cover ſin."

An abbey, thus diſtinguiſhed by the eminent rank and piety of thoſe who preſided over it, was highly reſpected by the Norman conqueror, who ſome time after his acceſſion paid a viſit to Alfgiva the abbeſs, an Anglo-Saxon lady, who had been appointed by the Confeſſor. Stephen, his queen, and court, alſo honoured the abbeſs with reſiding ſome days in the nunnery. The ſovereigns were laviſh in granting privileges and immunities to this favoured monaſtery. The abbeſſes were

generally ſelected from the firſt families of the nobility. The queens of Henry I. and Stephen did not think it beneath them to take the care of the ſiſterhood. Henry II. and John each made their natural daughter abbeſs, both of whom were named Maud. Hither Eleanor, widow of Humphry duke of Glouceſter, uncle to Henry VI. retired, after her huſband's death, where ſhe remained, probably a profeſſed nun, until her own deceaſe in 1399. It was here that Edmund and Jaſper, the ſons of Catherine, dowager of Henry V. by Owen Tudor, were educated under the care of the abbeſs, Catherine de la Pole.

The appointment of the abbeſs was in the crown until the commencement of the thirteenth century, when the pope appointed the convent to elect, and the ſovereign to confirm. The lady abbeſs poſſeſſed thirteen knights' fees and a half, and had the rank of a baroneſs, to whom all other abbeſſes gave precedency, though thoſe of Wilton, Shafteſbury, and St. Mary in Wincheſter were alſo baroneſſes. As a female ſhe could not ſit in parliament, but ſhe gave her quota of men to carry on the wars of the ſovereign. In the convent ſhe lived in baronial ſplendour, having chaplains, an eſquire, gentlemen, gentlewomen, yeomen, grooms, a clerk-yeoman, cook, groom-cook, pudding-wife, &c. The prioreſs was next in rank; ſhe was alſo for life: under her were two ſub-prioreſſes, and in the abſence of the lady abbeſs ſhe had the management of every thing within the nunnery. Theſe offices were annual, but often continued for many years: a chantreſs, high-cellareſs, an office ſomething like a burſar of a college; under-cellareſs, chamberlain, kitchener, two freytoreſſes, who had the care of the freytory or eating-hall; a penſionereſs, a firmareſs, who ſuperintended the infirmary; a parlereſs, and a ſacriſt. Their tenantry, like thoſe of the temporal peers, were obliged to perform ſervices, and reſtricted from privileges which were incompatible with our ideas of freedom. In the rude ages, when the feudal tenure was in all its ſtrictneſs, it was much ſoftened by the tender humanity of the great, who regarded their vaſſals as a part of their family: the religious were peculiarly benevolent to their dependants. The foregoing ſtatement gives the beſt idea of the conventual economy of the greater religious foundations. This community, the moſt enviable of any in England, met with a cruel enemy in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries in the Thames, which breaking his boundaries, inundated their lands, and exhauſted their revenue; ſo that in 1410 the ladies profeſſed had not more than fourteen ſhillings each for clothes and neceſſaries. Had not the ſovereign freed them from taxes, impreſſed labourers to work for them,

and

and even appropriated the revenues of other churches to their uſe, they muſt have quitted their convent, ſplendid as the revenues had been. The wide-ſpreading evil may be judged of by the inundations at the beginning of the eighteenth century, when, after many fruitleſs attempts to keep out the Thames, the proprietors gave up the undertaking, and the evil was not remedied until 25,000*l.* had been expended by parliament, under the judicious management of captain John Perry.

After this convent had ſtood with unrivalled honour for ſo great a length of time, the community, ſeeing the fate that awaited them, ſigned their ſurrender to Henry VIII. November 14, 1539. The lady abbeſs, Dorothy Barley, received a penſion of 200 marks; her thirty ſiſters, ſtipends according to their merits, but very inadequate to what they had given up: the former ſurviving the rapacious Henry, died, it is ſuppoſed, in the reign of Edward VI. his ſucceſſor. Dugdale makes the revenues of the convent 862*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.*; according to Speed they were 1084*l.* 6*s.* 2¾*d.*

This nunnery was ſituated on the north ſide of the cemetery of the preſent church; but all its greatneſs is levelled with the ground, except a gateway, over which was "The chapel of the holy rood lofte atte gate, edified to the honour of Aldmighty "God, and of the holy rood;" called alſo Fire-bell gate, from the bell hung here being uſed as a curfew-bell. The plan of the magnificent and elegantly regular conventual church has been diſcovered by Mr. Lethieullier; it was in the form of a croſs: its deſtruction muſt have been a great national misfortune. It was upon a leſs ſcale than the cathedral of Canterbury now is, and at its demolition muſt have been dear to all thoſe who were devoted to the Roman catholic tenets—its various altars, its many ſhrines of ſaints, muſt have made its ſacred walls highly valued: containing the remains of illuſtrious ladies, honoured for their birth and rank, and beloved for their piety and beauty, none but a prince devoid of all the ſofter feelings would have cauſed the holy fane to be deſecrated.

The convent, with all its appendant buildings, leaſed by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Dennye, was granted by Edward VI. November 16, 1551, to Edward Fynes lord Clinton, who the following day conveyed it to Sir Richard Sackville: after various transfers it veſted again in the crown. James I. in 1605 granted it to Ann Steward and Auguſtine Steward, to hold of the manor of Eaſt Greenwich by fealty in ſocage. Criſpe Gaſcoyne, Eſq. an alderman of London, ſold this eſtate in 1747 to Joſeph Keeling, Eſq. whoſe widow is the preſent proprietreſs.

The

The manor of Barking, paramount of all the others in Becontree, after the diſſolution, continued in the crown, until Charles I. granted it, in 1628, to Sir Thomas Fanſhaw for 2000*l.*, with a reſerved rent of 160*l.* now payable to the earl of Sandwich. Smart Lethieullier, Eſq. in 1754 purchaſed the manor of the Gore family: leaving no iſſue, it came to Mary, only daughter and heir of his brother Charles; ſhe marrying Edward Hulſe, Eſq., eldeſt ſon and heir of Sir Edward Hulſe, Bart., took it to that gentleman, its preſent poſſeſſor.

Jenkins, a manor in the pariſhes of Barking and Dagenham, in the reign of John was poſſeſſed by Ralph Fitzſtephen; the knightly family of Bryce held it under the abbeſs of Barking, and at length it ſettled in the Fanſhaws, who had a ſeat here, which Sir William Humphrey, Bart. rebuilt: this is now taken down, and there only remains a moated farm-houſe. In the chapel of the ancient manſion was the figure of an abbeſs in ſtained glaſs.

Wangay or Wangey, a manor leaſed to John Humphrey before the diſſolution, and granted by Edward VI. to Edward lord Clinton, who ſoon after diſpoſed of it to Thomas Baron or Barnes; reverting to the crown, Elizabeth granted the manor in 1601 to Joſeph Heynes, from whoſe family, by a female, it went to the Oſbaſtons, the coheirs of whom conveyed it to the Lethieullers, and from them it has come to Edward Hulſe, Eſq., whoſe tenant of the manſion-houſe is Mr. Barley. It ſtands on the ſouth ſide of Chadwell heath.

Fulkys, a manor granted at the diſſolution to Sir Thomas Audley; he ſold it to William Severne: after having had ſeveral owners, the Fanſhaw family purchaſed it, and from that time this manor has gone with that of Barking. The manſion, which ſtood in the town, has been taken down.

Loxford, a manor or manor-farm, was given by Henry VIII. to Thomas Powle, who diſpoſed of it to the Pouncett family, they to the Fullers; ſince then it has followed the deſcent of Wangey.

Malmeynes, a capital meſſuage, with a conſiderable farm, called Molmans or Mammons, received the firſt name from a family who were lords of Cranbrook manor. Before the diſſolution Sir Hugh Bryce, and Elizabeth his wife, held it of the lady abbeſs of Barking: in Elizabeth's reign Sir William Hewett, lord mayor of London, poſſeſſed it. After various alienations, coming to the Fanſhaws, theſe premiſes have gone with the other eſtates which they held in the pariſh.

Eaſtbury, a manor or manor-farm, at the diſſolution was granted to Sir William Denham,

Denham. It has had a ſeries of owners ſince that time, and is now the joint property of three gentlemen of the name of Sterry, ſons of the late Rev. Waſey Sterry. The ancient large manſion called Eaſtbury-houſe, occupied by Mr. Bruſhfield, ſtands about a mile from the town, on the road to Dagenham; ſome of the rooms are painted in freſco. The conſpirators of the gunpowder plot, it is ſaid, met in this houſe to contrive their diabolical project: lord Monteagle, to whom the letter was addreſſed that led to the diſcloſure of the deſign, having reſided at Barking, ſeems to give ſome authenticity to the tradition.

Weſtbury manor, with a portion of tithes, granted by Henry VIII. to Sir William Denham, came afterwards to the Fanſhaw family: it is now poſſeſſed by the widow of the late Joſeph Keeling, Eſq., who makes the manſion, ſtanding a little to the eaſt of the town, her reſidence.

Withfield or Wyfields, granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Audley, was ſoon after ſold by him. After paſſing through various families, without remaining long in any one, it came by purchaſe to Andrew Moffat, Eſq., whoſe eldeſt daughter took it in marriage to Andrew Moffatt Mills, Eſq., ſon of Sir Thomas Mills. The manor-houſe, ſtanding half a mile north of Ilford, is occupied by Mr. Jones.

Uphall, a capital meſſuage and farm, at the diſſolution leaſed to Milo Bowdiſh, at the yearly rent of 7*l.*, was granted by Henry VIII. to Morgan Philips, alias Wolfe. In 1760 it was purchaſed by Richard Eaſtland, Eſq., who deviſed theſe premiſes to his great-nephew, John Nixon, Eſq. The farm-houſe ſtands on the north ſide of the church. Upon this eſtate, and adjoining the farm, about a quarter of a mile north of the town, is an entrenchment of great magnitude, being in circumference 1792 yards, or one mile and thirty-two yards, containing within it forty-eight acres, one rood, and thirty-four perches: the form, though irregular, approaches ſomewhat to a ſquare. There is a ſingle trench on the north-eaſt and ſouth ſides; the plough has almoſt filled up the trench on the two former; a deep moraſs is on the ſouth: on the weſt, parallel and near to the Roding, the bank and trench are double. A very fine ſpring of water is near the north-weſt corner, which an outlet led to; this was defended by an inner work, and a mound of earth raiſed very high. The work, no doubt, is Roman; from the great extent it has been ſuppoſed the foundation of a town, and from ſome few remains diſcovered in the foundations of the abbey church, it is thought that the materials

materials were uſed for the purpoſe of building Barking abbey. Among the ruins was diſcovered a coin of Magnentius. Many Saxon coins have been found towards the ſouth-eaſt part of the town.

King Henry VIII. granted the manor farm of Newberry, at the diſſolution of the abbey of Barking, from Laurence Guy, who held it on leaſe, to Sir Richard Greſham. It was in the poſſeſſion of Bartholomew Baron, or Barnes, in the year 1548; his ſon in 1566 ſold it to Thomas Yale and Joan his wife; in 1578 it was diſpoſed of to Joſeph Heynes, Eſq., whoſe ſon and heir conveyed it in 1625 to Thomas Stych, Eſq.: it was mortgaged afterwards, and ſold by Sir Richard Stych, Bart. in 1698, to Thomas Webſter of the Middle Temple, afterwards created a baronet, who aliened it in 1747 to the late Richard Benyon, Eſq., and from him it devolved to his ſon.

Dunſhall, a farm anciently belonging to the monaſtery of Barking, appears to have been veſted in the ſame proprietors till the death of Joſeph Heynes, Eſq. in 1621. John Hyde, Eſq. of Sundridge, poſſeſſed it in 1668, in whoſe family it continued till 1730; Mr. John Dagge of Rotherhithe purchaſed it, and his niece and deviſee, Mary Cherinton, married Mr. Moore; it was ſold by her ſon Dagge Moore in 1776 to the late Mr. Edmonds of Deptford, whoſe ſecond ſon, by will, became poſſeſſed of it.

Gayſeham's hall, in the foreſt, was in 1360 the property of Thomas de Sandwich; he held it under the abbeſs and convent of Barking, with about 160 acres of land. This eſtate, in the time of Edward IV., was in the poſſeſſion of the convent, and the manſion appears to have been a country-houſe of the abbeſs. In 1545 it was granted to Sir William Denham. William Abbot, his ſon-in-law, ſold it in 1557 to Clement Siſley. Vincent Ranhall had it of Arthur Breame in 1571, who, it was ſuppoſed, purchaſed it of Siſley. In 1604 it was ſold to Hugh Hare, Eſq., who aliened it in 1609 to Gabriel Wight, Eſq. Henry Wight had it from him, and he died without iſſue in 1793, having deviſed a moiety of his eſtate in Eſſex and Surry to John Wight, Eſq. of Brabeuf-houſe near Guildford for life, with remainder to his right heirs, his two ſiſters being dead; the other moiety to William Martin the younger, ſon of William Martin of Blackſmith's-hall, and the heirs of his body.

Mr. Wight, grandſon of Gabriel, pulled down the old manſion, which was very ſpacious, and built of timber.

Stonehall ſtands about a mile north of the church on the eaſt ſide of the river

Roding, half way between Barking and Great Ilford near to Loxford. This manor was held under the abbeſs and convent of Barking, by a quit-rent of 1*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* and was in 1545 given by Sir John Rainsforth to Henry VIII. The king ſoon afterwards granted it to Sir William Denham, who in the ſame year ſold it to Richard Breame, Eſq. In 1578 Arthur Breame ſold it to John Bales, who in 1579 conveyed it to Robert Devereux earl of Eſſex. It appears to have paſſed through the ſame hands with the manor of Wanſtead, for in 1636 Sir Henry Mildmay had poſſeſſion of it, and is now veſted in the hands of the Tylneys.

Clay-hall manor was held under the abbeſs and convent of Barking by a quit-rent of 15*s.* 3*d.* and the following ſervices: That the tenant ſhould come in perſon to the abbey church of Barking, on the vigil of St. Ethelburgh the virgin, and there attend, and from the firſt hour of veſpers guard the high altar till nine o'clock in the morning of the following day; that he ſhould be ready at all times with a man and horſe to attend the abbeſs and her ſteward, when upon the buſineſs of the convent, to any place within the diſtance of the four ſeas; and laſtly, that the abbeſs ſhould have by way of heriot, upon the death of every tenant, his beſt horſe and accoutrements. The manor was in the poſſeſſion of Joan, widow of Thomas Colte, Eſq., and wife of Sir William Parre, at her deceaſe, in 1475. It then deſcended to John Colte, her ſon by her former huſband, in 1521, and it continued in that family till 1623, when it came into the poſſeſſion of John Cambell, Eſq., in whoſe family it continued for many years. He was deſcended from Robert Cambell of Foulſham in Norfolk. Sir Henry Cambell dying in 1699 left one daughter, Anne, married to Thomas Price, Eſq., whoſe ſon, Cambell Price, diſpoſed of it to Peter Eaton, Eſq. in 1742. In 1769, on the death of Mr. Eaton, it deſcended to Mrs. Hannah Markland, who by will deviſed it to John Monins, Eſq. Near Clay-hall there is a farm-houſe called St. Swithin. The old manſion belonging to this manor ſtood about a mile from Woodford bridge, and about four miles to the north of Barking church. This manſion was pulled down many years ſince, and upon its ſite a farm-houſe is built. There was a chapel of eaſe built by Chriſtopher Hatton in 1616.

The manor of Beringers belonged to the abbot and convent of Stratford Langthorne; ſince the diſſolution of that monaſtery, it has paſſed through the ſame hands as Ilford Parva. It was ſituated in the town of Barking, where there was formerly a lane called Beringers Lane.

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Dugdale del.

R. Knight sculp.

VIEW of CLAYBURY HALL,

The Seat of James Heath Esq.

Pubd. by [illegible] & Co. 41 Hale Piccadilly.

The manor of Porters was held under the abbeſs and convent of Barking by a quit-rent of 1*l.* 9*s.* 1½*d.* In 1483 Richard Pygot died in poſſeſſion of it; John Lucas, Eſq. in 1556, Sir Thomas Lucas in 1611. In 1635 it was the property of Thomas Fanſhaw, Eſq. Till 1701 the hiſtory of this manor is very obſcure, when it was veſted in Godfrey Woodward, Eſq., whoſe daughter married Walter Vane, Eſq. William Walter Vane, Eſq., ſon of Godfrey Woodford Vane, and grandſon of Walter Vane here mentioned, ſold it in 1790 to Abraham Newman, Eſq. the preſent proprietor.

The manor, farm, and manſion-houſe of Cranbrook, lying on the north ſide of the London road, about half a mile from Ilford, were held by John Malmeynes in the year 1347 of the abbeſs and convent of Barking, by a quit-rent of 2*s.* per annum: his anceſtors probably were owners of the eſtate, having lived in the pariſh for a ſeries of years. In the reign of Henry VI. Joan, daughter and heir of John Malmeynes, brought it in marriage to John Rigby. In 1615 Sir Henry Palavicini died ſeiſed of it. His brother ſold the eſtates. Sir Charles Montague was, in all probability, the purchaſer of this manor: he died in poſſeſſion of it in 1625, leaving three daughters coheirs. Till 1670 every thing relating to the proprietors is obſcure, when Thomas Young, Eſq., whoſe widow married Sir William Boreman, had a life-intereſt in it. In 1720 the inheritance was ſold by Mary, widow of Theobald Townſon, daughter of Thomas Young, and his heir, after the death of her brother James, to John Lethieullier, Eſq. in the year 1720. Charles Raymond, Eſq. purchaſed it of Smart Lethieullier, Eſq. in 1757, who in 1762 ſold it to Samuel Hough, Eſq., by whom the next year it was made over to Andrew Moffat, Eſq. It then paſſed to Andrew Moffat Mills, Eſq., ſon of Sir Thomas Mills, by the eldeſt daughter of Mr. Moffat.

Claybury, a capital meſſuage and lands, lying about a mile north of Clay-hall, near Woodford bridge, was, with other lands adjoining, the property of Sir Ralph Warren in 1553. His widow married Sir Thomas White, alderman of London, and founder of St. John's college, Oxford, in whoſe occupation it was in 1560. It was the property of John Fowke, Eſq. in 1686, whoſe truſtees ſold it in 1693. John Goodere, Eſq. of Wanſted, purchaſed it; his grandſon of the ſame name conveyed it to Eliab Harvey, Eſq. Mr. Harvey's daughter, being his ſole heir, married Montague Burgoyne, Eſq., and jointly with her huſband ſold the eſtate in 1789 to James Hatch, Eſq.

Albury-hatch, denoting an old ſeat, near a hatch or low gate belonging to the foreſt, otherwiſe called Alborough-hatch, ſtands from Clay-hall to the ſouth-eaſt, and above three miles to the north-north-eaſt from the church. It was the property of Bartholomew Barons of London, mercer, who died in 1548. His grandſon, Thomas, died in poſſeſſion of it in 1626. John Lockey, Eſq., who died in 1713, was the proprietor in the beginning of the laſt century: at his death a moiety of the eſtate was ſold to Richard Guiſe, Eſq. On this part of the eſtate is a good houſe. Colonel Jory obtained poſſeſſion of the other half of the eſtate, who died in 1725, and left it to Frances his niece, who married Martin Bladen, Eſq., one of the lords of trade, &c. He died in February 1746. His widow left it to Ann Hodges, who in 1737 had been married to John Lambert Middleton, Eſq., her ſecond huſband, brother of Sir William Middleton, Bart. This houſe was lately in the occupation of William Raikes, Eſq., and ſince of Robert Henſhaw, Eſq.

Mrs. Frances Bladen, by her will in 1746, endowed the chapel in this houſe with 20*l.* per annum for ever charged upon the eſtate.

Great Ilford is a hamlet on the London road, about eight miles diſtant from that city, and one of the wards of this large pariſh. It contains about 170 houſes, and was ſo called from the Ill-ford that was here before the erection of the bridge. An hoſpital was here founded about the end of Henry II.'s reign, or beginning of Richard I. by the abbeſs and convent of Barking for their leprous ſervants or tenants: it conſiſted of a ſecular maſter, a leprous maſter, and thirteen leprous brethren, two chaplains, and one clerk. She endowed it with 120 acres of land in Eſtholt, two hides of land in Upminſter and Aveley, and other lands; a mill at Ilford, half the profits of the church at Barking, the tithe of all her mills in the pariſh, and other tithes in Barking and Warley. The charter was confirmed by king Stephen and by Maud, the ſucceſſor of the foundreſs. Maud's confirmation was on condition that the prior and brethren ſhould maintain a prieſt, and pay him 10*s.* per annum for performing divine ſervice in the hoſpital chapel, and ſaying maſs for Maud after her death. An inſtrument was drawn up owing to ſome diſputes which aroſe relative to the endowment of the hoſpital; wherein, among other things, it was agreed, that the brethren of the hoſpital ſhould receive 40*s.* per annum of the vicar of Barking; that on the death of a prior the brethren ſhould elect three out of their body, one of whom ſhould be appointed by the abbeſs of Barking; he might be either a layman or a prieſt; that the lepers ſhould be choſen out of the houſes belonging to the abbey; that they ſhould

ſhould ſwear obedience to the abbeſs; that the hoſpital ſhould nominate a prieſt for the daily ſervice of the chapel, and the abbeſs another for the purpoſe of ſaying maſs for the deceaſed. The tithes of Claybury, Jenkins, and Wyfields, with other lands, were granted by this agreement, in addition to the other advantages which the brethren poſſeſſed. In 1346, the biſhop of London drew up other ſtatutes for this hoſpital. Among other things it was ordained, that the original number of thirteen lepers ſhould be kept up; that the new brethren, upon a vacancy, ſhould be appointed by the abbeſs alternately with the maſter of the hoſpital, with the conſent of the abbeſs; and rather than that the number ſhould be diminiſhed, any where from the pariſh of Barking; no married man, unleſs his wife ſhould vow perpetual chaſtity, ſhould be admitted into the hoſpital; no woman ſhould enter the gates under any pretence, except the abbeſs of Barking, and ſuch nuns as might accompany her; the near relations of the brethren, or chaplains, if ſick, and the laundreſs; and theſe to enter in and out in open day, ſo as to avoid any pretence for ſcandal. The biſhop, in order to prevent infection from ſpreading, by the brethren quitting the hoſpital, was allowed to inveſt the chaplains with the power of confeſſing and abſolving. Every leper, on his admiſſion, was obliged to take the oath of obedience to the abbeſs and convent of Barking, to obſerve all the rules and laws of the hoſpital, and not to have any property for his own private uſe. There appear to have been two maſters at this time; one elected from the lepers, the other to manage the ſecular concerns of the hoſpital as ſteward. One of theſe was probably called the prior.

The patronage of the hoſpital was, by Richard II. and Henry IV. confirmed to the abbeſs of Barking. Upon the ſuppreſſion, it becoming the property of the crown, queen Elizabeth, in 1572, granted the patronage and advowſon of the hoſpital to Thomas Fanſhaw, with the lands and tithes belonging, and to his heirs for ever. His conditions were to appoint a maſter, who ſhould keep in repair the chapel and other buildings; and provide apartments for ſix infirm or ſound people, with an allowance to each of 2*l.* 5*s.* per annum: and that he ſhould nominate and appoint a chaplain to perform ſervice in the chapel. The eſtate thus charged deſcended to Thomas Fanſhaw viſcount Dromore, who, in 1668, granted a leaſe of it of one thouſand years to Thomas Allen, gent. He bequeathed it in 1676, to James Clement, who, in 1690, conveyed it to Francis Stone, gent.; it then paſſed through

through the hands of William Stone, William Riggs, Terry Sturgeon, William Houghton, and John Thrale, whoſe widow Margaret ſold it to her ſon-in-law Chriſtopher Waldron. It was purchaſed of the Waldrons, in 1739, by Sir Criſp Gaſcoigne, alderman of London, grandfather of Bamber Gaſcoigne, Eſq.

In 1711 there was a determination in the court of exchequer, that 1200 acres of Barking ſhould pay to the hoſpital. Since this decree the tithes of Weſtbury have been ſeparated from this hoſpital, and were by Sir Criſp Gaſcoigne diſpoſed of to his younger ſon.

The hoſpital is ſituated on the north ſide of the road in the town of Ilford. It occupies three ſides of a ſmall quadrangle. On the ſouth ſide is the chapel, which bears evident marks of having been built about the fifteenth century: there have been many repairs and different alterations made to it. Apartments for the penſioners are ſeen on the weſt and eaſt ſides, which are very neat though ſmall.

Valentines, a large manſion in the foreſt to the north of Ilford, was built by James Chadwick, Eſq. ſon-in-law of archbiſhop Tillotſon, upon a ſpot where a ſmall cottage before ſtood. It lately came into the hands of the Camerons. There are in the gardens ſome remarkably fine productions.

A ſtone coffin was found in 1724, in the fields near Valentines, in which was a human ſkeleton; it was laid north and ſouth, ſquare at the head and circular at the feet, but of the ſame width at both. In 1746, in the ſame field, was diſcovered an urn of coarſe earth, filled with burnt bones.

Highlands, near Valentines, was built by Sir Charles Raymond, whoſe heirs ſold it to earl Tylney. The mauſoleum is a beautiful object for ſeveral miles round, and was built in 1765 by Sir Charles Raymond, who intended it for a burial-place for his family, but it was never uſed for that purpoſe.

Beehive is now a farm-houſe in the foreſt, and for many years was the ſeat of the Fullers and Oſbaſtons. It was ſold to John Lethieullier, Eſq. in 1694, with the manors of Loxford and Wangay.

Fulwell-hatch, an old manſion which took its name from Adam Fulwell, who was the owner of it in the time of Dorothy Barley, the laſt abbeſs of Barking, was in 1617 the ſeat of Sir Edward Wilde.

Bifrons, the ſeat of the late Bamber Gaſcoigne, Eſq. adjoins to the town of Barking; it was built by Dr. Bamber, and was enlarged and improved by his ſon-in-law Mr. Gaſcoigne.

Great

Great Geries, a houſe ſo called from the family of that name, who held it under the abbeſs of Barking, is ſituated in the foreſt, but a great part of it has been lately pulled down.

The pariſh church, dedicated to St. Margaret, conſiſts of a chancel, nave, ſouth aiſle, and two north aiſles, running parallel to each other the whole length of the building. At the weſt end is a ſquare tower, embattled. The church of this pariſh, which is in the dioceſe of London and gives name to a deanery, was appropriated to the monaſtery of Barking, to which the tithes of the whole pariſh belonged, except thoſe of certain lands which the hoſpital of Ilford was endowed with. Theſe were granted by queen Elizabeth, with the ſite of the hoſpital, to Thomas Fanſhaw, Eſq.; and ſtill continue annexed to it, except the tithes of Weſtbury, which were bequeathed by Sir Criſp Gaſcoigne to his youngeſt ſon, Joſeph Gaſcoigne, Eſq.

Mary Blackenhall had the leaſe of the rectory of Barking, at 10*l.* per annum, in 1541. It conſiſted of all ſuch tithes as had not been leaſed to others. It was ſold by the crown, together with the advowſon of the vicarage, for the ſum of 214*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to Robert, Thomas, and Andrew Salter; this grant bears date 1550. In 1557 Sir William Petre, William Cook, and Edward Napper, executors of William Pownſett of Loxford, who had been ſteward to the laſt abbeſs of Barking, purchaſed of Thomas Barnes, the laſt proprietor, the rectory and advowſon: and granted them to the warden and fellows of All Souls college, Oxford, on condition that they ſhould ſuffer the vicar and his ſucceſſors by them preſented, to enjoy all the profits of the rectory and vicarage; the vicars to pray every Sunday for the ſouls of William Pownſett, his parents, and benefactors, and all Chriſtian ſouls; to keep a yearly obit on the 8th of March, when they were to diſtribute certain allowances to the poor, &c.

The great tithes of the pariſh are now divided in certain portions between the proprietors of Ilford hoſpital, Eaſtbury-houſe, Gayſeham-hall, Newberry, and the vicar; who enjoys under the grant of Sir William Petre all the tithes which had not been ſeparated from the rectory. Before the year 1328 there were two vicarages in the church of Barking, that of St. Margaret to the north, and St. Margaret to the ſouth; they were conſolidated before 1398.

The firſt vacancy which happened after the grant to All Souls college was in 1560, when the queen diſputed the validity of the grant after the Proteſtant religion

had

had been re-eſtabliſhed. During the diſpute the living lapſed to the crown. The college eſtabliſhed their right by a ſuit at law againſt the crown; and for the better aſſurance of it, Sir John Petre, heir of Sir William Petre, ſurviving executor of Pownſett, by a deed of 1594, confirmed the former grant, omitting ſuperſtitious obſervances, and increaſing the ſum paid by the vicar to the college. The vicarage of Barking is rated in the king's books at 19*l.* per annum. There was a chapel in the pariſh, called St. Anne's chapel. Its ſite is not known. There were alſo three chantries. Dr. Freeman, fellow of All Souls college, bequeathed 2000*l.* for repairing and rebuilding the vicarage-houſe at this place. The late vicar, Dr. Muſgrave, expended part of it in repairs; the remaining part was employed by Mr. Raſhleigh, in 1794, vicar, in building a new vicarage-houſe.

There is a Quakers' meeting-houſe, and another belonging to the Methodists, in the town of Barking. The pariſh has increaſed in the laſt hundred years nearly two thirds in population; the principal increaſe has been at Ilford. In 1641 Sir James Cambell founded a free ſchool; which, afterwards falling into decay, was pulled down, and a workhouſe built, which now contains twenty boys and twenty girls, beſides the maſter and miſtreſs. A very large and commodious workhouſe was built here in 1787.

The river Roding was formerly navigable only to this place, but in 1730 was made navigable to Ilford, and ſupplies the neighbourhood with timber, coals, &c. There is no manufacture in the pariſh, but the fiſhing trade employs numbers of its inhabitants. The ſeveral wards are rated to the land-tax as follows: Barking 2140*l.* Chadwell 832*l.* Great Ilford 2502*l.* 3*s.* and Ripple ward 2231*l.*

DAGENHAM.

THE pariſh of Dagenham follows next to Barking; it belonged to the nunnery till its diſſolution, and was conſidered as a member of the capital manor ſtyled Jenkins, otherwiſe Dagenham. The place is not mentioned in Domeſday-book, being included in Barking. It is not known from whence the firſt part of the name is derived. There are four manors, or reputed manors, Dagenham, Cockermouth, Parſlows, and Valence. Dagenham breach, which makes a conſiderable figure in the map, happened December 17, 1707, cauſed by a violent wind and extraordinary

extraordinary high tide. It might with eaſe have been rectified, if attention had been immediately paid; but being neglected, the gap became 100 yards in width, and in ſome places twenty feet deep, covering 1000 acres of land, worth 3*l.* an acre, raiſing a ſand-bank in the Thames, which threatened to deſtroy the navigation. Parliament ſaw the danger, and to rectify it, laid certain duties upon the ſhipping. The act paſſed July 10, 1714. William Boſwell, after aſking 19,000*l.* to wall out the ſea, and clear the river, agreed to take only 16,500*l.*; but he ſoon gave up the enterpriſe, which was aſſigned, January 26, 1715, to captain John Perry. A more proper perſon could not have been ſelected, having been employed ſucceſsfully by Peter I. of Ruſſia, in undertakings of the ſame kind: he was to complete the walls by November 1, 1717, and take away the ſand-bank in eighteen months, commencing from April 25, 1718, for the ſum of 25,000*l.*, and, if that ſhould not be ſufficient, an application to parliament was to be made in his favour. Thrice was the work greatly damaged by high tides, ſo that the money expended amounted to 40,472*l.* 18*s.* 8¾*d.* which would have involved captain Perry in the greateſt difficulties, had not parliament voted him an additional ſum of 15,000*l.* The misfortune however is, in ſome meaſure, irreparable to Dagenham; for from 1707 to 1721, the tides had worn large branches, like natural arms of a river, extending more than a mile and a half, and in ſome places 4 or 500 feet wide, and from twenty to forty feet deep; ſo that it was computed that 120 acres of marſh land were waſhed into the Thames. There yet remains a pool or lake of forty or fifty acres within the wall, made by the earth being carried away by the tide.

There was found from three to four feet and a half under the ſurface what is called moorlogg; it was about ten feet deep above a ſtratum of blue clay, which is twelve or thirteen inches in depth, lying upon a bed of gravel and ſand. The moorlogg conſiſts of decayed bruſhwood, with ſome trees of various kinds, willow, yew, horn-beam or alder, birch, and oak, and probably others; hazel-nuts were often ſeen, which had preſerved their form, but crumbled with the touch: ſtags horns were alſo met with. This moorlogg extends along other parts of the banks of the Thames, at unequal depths; much conjecture has been hazarded relative to it; but the matter is eaſily ſolved, when we reflect that the Romans invariably cut down, not only woods, but vaſt foreſts in England, to accelerate their ſubjugation of the warlike Britons. In many parts of the kingdom timber has been found like theſe trees, cut off with axes, the marks of which are very

viſible. Whether the Romans left ſo many inhabitants in South Britain as they found, is very uncertain; but the ravages of the Saxons and Danes deſtroyed more perſons than they ever brought over as ſettlers, which, with their rude manners and hatred to cultivation, occaſioned this fruitful part of the iſland to become again a ſolitary deſert: many woods, even foreſts, ſprung up and flouriſhed for ages, where others had before been covering the ſcites of many Roman villas, towns, and cities.

The manor of Dagenham was held in Edward III.'s reign by Edmund de Northtoft, whoſe grand-daughters Emma and Florence were his coheirs: it is only reputed as ſuch, having loſt all its rights.

Cockermouth, a manor, given in 1330 with the lands to the convent at Barking, by John de Cockermouth, clerk, of which he had held it at a quit-rent of 2*s.* 6*d.* and ſuit of court, was, at the diſſolution, veſted in the crown, until granted by Elizabeth, with Purlevants and Wildmarſh, in Riplemarſh, to Sir Anthony Browne, lord chief juſtice of the common pleas. It came upon his death to Wiſtan Brown, Eſq., his brother John's grandſon, who alienated the whole. From that time it has gone through a variety of hands. There is only a farmhouſe remaining. Some years ago it was owned by Edward Evans, Eſq., a hop-merchant of London. The manſion is a mile from the church. The only court held in the pariſh is for Cockerills.

Parſelowes, or Paſſelowes, belonged to the abbey of Barking; the firſt owner after the diſſolution was Martin Bowes, Eſq., who, with Frances his wife, conveyed it, in 1568, to Rowland Hayward or Haywood, an alderman of London, and Thomas Wilbraham: afterwards coming into the Fanſhaw family, it paſſed, by marriage, to the Gaſcoynes, by an heir general; ſince to the Muilmans, and was part of the eſtate of the late generous but unfortunate Richard Muilman-Trench Chiſwell, Eſq. The manſion is about a mile north-weſt of the church. In the ſeventeenth century it was held of Barking manor, in free ſocage, at the quit-rent of 9*s.* 1¼*d.*

Valence, a reputed manor, ſo called from the ſurname of the ancient earls of Pembroke, who held it of the convent of Barking, by the ſervice of attending the lady abbeſs with two horſes, having reaſonable notice. Henry Merttins, Eſq., elder brother of Sir George Merttins, lord mayor of London, juſt preceding his death, purchaſed

purchaſed this manor, which he deviſed to John Henry Merttins, Eſq., whoſe manſion ſtands about half a mile north of Paſſelowes.

This pariſh, in the ſame deanry and dioceſe as Barking, is a vicarage, in the gift of the Fanſhaw family, valued in the king's books at 19*l.* 10*s.* The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, has a chancel, nave, and north aiſle, with a tower.

Richard Uphill, Eſq., ſtandard-bearer to William and Mary, Ann, and George I., is buried in this church; he was a great benefactor to the pariſh.

EASTHAM.

THE pariſh of Eaſtham, to the ſouth-eaſt of Barking, contains about 2000 acres; 900 marſh, 60 upland and paſture, and 1040 arable; 450 of the latter have been recently planted with potatoes, and 120 with cabbages and other vegetables. The land, unleſs where marſhy, is a light gravel. Eaſtham has 150 dwellings, and is rated at 627*l.* 8*s.* to the land-tax, being about 2*s.* 3*d.* in the pound. In Domeſday-book it is not diſtinguiſhed from Weſtham.

The manor, anciently demeſne, was given to Weſtminſter abbey before the Conqueſt. Preceding the year 1226, it had become the property of the Moignes family, who held it by the grand ſergeantry of being caterers of the king's kitchen. The Montfichets poſſeſſing it afterwards, took the whole in marriage to the de Bolebecs, one of whom, leaving only daughters, divided Eaſtham into two manors. Philippa de Bolebec taking her ſhare called Eaſtham-hall to Roger de Lancaſter; their ſon, John de Lancaſter, in 1319 gave it, after his own death and that of Annora his wife, to the convent of Stratford. At the diſſolution Henry VIII. granted it to Richard Breame, Eſq.; after various transfers it was purchaſed by Sir John Henniker, Bart., the preſent owner. The manſion, ſtanding near the church, is converted into a farm-houſe.

Eaſtham Burnels, the other moiety, alſo become a manor, took the latter name from its purchaſer, Robert Burnel, biſhop of Bath and Wells. This moiety was in the ſeventeenth century again divided, and is now poſſeſſed by Sir Robert Smyth, Bart., and Stephen Comyn, Eſq. It is ſingular, that when a court was held for this, and ſome other adjoining manors in Weſtham, the tenants of Eaſtham Burnels always

treated thoſe of Weſtham Burnels and Plaiz, from an idea, that at ſome remote period thoſe of the former had refuſed to contribute towards raiſing a ſum ſufficient to ranſom their lord, when a priſoner; a cuſtom remembered by perſons ſtill living.

At Green-ſtreet, a mile north-weſt of the church, is an ancient manſion, the ſuppoſed reſidence of ſome of the Nevil family: it is now the property and ſeat of William Morley, Eſq.

Eaſtham, a vicarage, is in the gift of the biſhop of London, and in the ſame deanry and dioceſe as the preceding pariſhes. It is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* The church, dedicated to Mary Magdalene, appears very ancient: from the cemetery is a good proſpect into Kent. Among the monuments thoſe of the Nevil family are moſt remarkable: the long poetic inſcriptions are wretched even to barbariſm. It was given by John de Lancaſter to the abbey of Stratford-Langthorne; but the devaſtations of the river injuring the living ſo much, it was endowed with the whole tithes; yet at the diſſolution they were granted to Richard Breame, Eſq.; they ſtill continue private property. The preſent vicar is Francis Haultain, D. D.

There is an alms-houſe founded in 1621 by Giles Breame, Eſq., for three poor men in this, and three of Boliſham pariſh, in Cambridgeſhire. The eſtate, amounting to 49*l.* 4*s.*, is divided between the two pariſhes; but all the alms-men are pariſhioners of Eaſtham. The edifice was rebuilt in 1791.

The Rev. Dr. Stukeley, rector of St. George's, Queen-ſquare, F. A. and R. S., a native of Holbech, in Lincolnſhire, ſo univerſally known as an able antiquary, was buried in the cemetery, March 9, 1765. By his own deſire the turf was placed flat upon his grave; he long had fixed upon the ſpot. He died at the vicarage-houſe upon a viſit to the Rev. Joſeph Simms.

WESTHAM.

ADJOINING to Eaſtham is this pariſh, containing 4500 acres; 1970 arable, and 2530 meadow and marſh; about 500 of the arable yield potatoes, and 200 turnips: near the foreſt there is ſome loam; the reſt is gravelly, except the marſhes. The village is a little ſouth of the great road, lying four miles from Whitechapel. It contains the hamlets of Stratford, Plaiſtow, and Upton, and is divided into three wards—Church-ſtreet, paying 529*l.* 12*s.* to the land-tax; Stratford-Langthorne,

aſſeſſed at 546*l.* 10*s.*; and Plaiſtow, at 784*l.* 10*s.*: each has a churchwarden and overſeer. In the pariſh are 1105 houſes, and 6485 inhabitants. The pariſh had a charter procured by Richard de Montfichet, in 1253, for holding a Tueſday's weekly market, and an annual fair upon the vigil, feaſt, and two ſucceeding days of St. Margaret's feſtival. There are conſiderable manufactories of calico-printing, which employ ſome hundred perſons. The water-works, erected here in 1745, ſupply the villages of Stratford, Bromley, Bow, Stepney, Bethnal-green, and the lower part of Whitechapel. They are worked by engines of ſteam and water; the reſervoir is at Mile-end. There are four proprietors.

As Barking was famous for nuns, ſo was Weſtham for monks; William Montfichet in 1135 founding an abbey for the order of Ciſtertians, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and All Saints. It was ſo amply endowed by him and the benefactions of others, that the abbot was ſummoned to parliament in 1307. At the ſuppreſſion the monaſtery poſſeſſed an income of 652*l.* 3*s.* 1¼*d.* It was ſurrendered March 29, 1538, by William Huddleſtone, the abbot, with the prieſt, ſacriſt, chanter, and eleven monks, one of whom by his mark, becauſe he could not "wrytte." Henry VIII. granted the conventual church, St. Richard's chapel, ſcite of the monaſtery and its appendages, to Sir Peter Mewtas or Meautis, knight, late ambaſſador to France. His deſcendant in 1633 diſpoſed of the ſcite, 240 acres of land, abbey mills, &c. to Sir John Nulls. They were purchaſed in 1786 by Mr. Thomas Holbrook, who now owns them.

The abbey ſtood about three furlongs ſouth-weſt of the parochial church: the ſcite of the moated precincts contains about ſixteen acres. A part of a chapel and door-way, adjoining to the Adam and Eve public houſe, remains, as does a brick gateway, the entrance to the precinct; it is a little to the north. The foundations of the monaſtery were taken up and carried away by Mr. Holbrook: nothing was diſcovered worthy noticing but a ſmall onyx ſeal, ſet in ſilver, bearing a griffin, with the legend, *Nuncio vobis gaudium et ſalutem*—ſuppoſed a privy ſeal of an abbot. In this convent was buried, in 1335, John de Bohun, earl of Hereford and Eſſex, high conſtable of England. About the time of the diſſolution, Margaret counteſs of Saliſbury reſided within the precincts; two years afterwards ſhe cloſed her unhappy days upon the ſcaffold, ſacrificed to the barbarous and unmanly revenge Henry VIII. bore to her ſon, cardinal Pole, as her brother the earl of Warwick had been to the ſuſpicious temper of Henry VII.

Maud,

Maud, conſort to Henry I., having undergone ſome danger at the old ford upon the road leading from Eſſex to London, made another between Stratford, Bow, and Weſtham, with ſuitable cauſeways and bridges; that over the Ley river, being the firſt in the county arched with ſtone, obtained the name of Bow: to keep this and the road in proper repair, ſhe gave ſome manors and Wiggon mill to the abbeſs of Barking, who conveyed them to the abbot of Stratford to perform the conditions; but he neglecting it, a court of law in 1315 compelled him and his ſucceſſors to fulfil the agreement: the lady abbeſs gave the prior 200*l.* in ſilver, probably as a ſatisfaction for the expenſe and trouble his neglect had cauſed. The tenants of the monaſtic land having refuſed to perform the duties annexed to their eſtates, the court of king's bench, in 1691, obliged them. If they have duties to diſcharge, they have privileges annexed to their lands, having liberty to enjoy all the emoluments and immunities the abbot's tenants ever poſſeſſed.

The manor of Weſtham was held by Aleſtan a freeman, prior to, and by Ranulph Peverell and Robert Gernon, after the Conqueſt. William de Montfichet endowed Stratford abbey, his foundation, with all his lordſhips and demeſne lands in Weſtham; yet they ſoon became again lay property; for in 1446 Thomas Bernwell gave them to the convent in exchange for lands in Havering. Remaining in the crown after the diſſolution, theſe eſtates have been granted for the uſe of Henry prince of Wales; his brother Charles, previous to his acceſſion, as a part of the jointure of his queen Henrietta-Maria; and became alſo part of the revenue of Catherine, dowager of Charles II. It was let by the crown at a reſerved rent to George Booth, Eſq., in 1693, for a term of ninety-nine years, commencing from her majeſty's death, which happened in 1705; the rent was remitted. The remainder of the term is now in Sir John Henniker, Bart., who lately purchaſed it. During the uſurpation Silas Taylors, and other creditors of the government, bought this, with other demeſne lands, at the rate of thirty-two years purchaſe.

Eaſt Weſtham manor was granted to Sir Roger Cholmondeley, in 1553; ſince then it has ſometimes been in ſeparate moieties, at others united; at preſent Sir Robert Smyth, Bart., owns one, and Stephen Comyn, Eſq., the other part.

Playz, a manor, taking its name from Hugh de Playz, who married Philippa, ſiſter and coheir of Richard de Montfichet. Sir Richard de Playz in 1353 gave it to the monaſtery of Stratford-Langthorne. At the diſſolution, being granted to

Sir

Sir Roger Cholmondeley, the ſame proprietors poſſeſſed this as the manors of Eaſt Weſtham.

Weſtham Burnels manor has always gone with Eaſtham Burnels, ſince the ſuppreſſion of the convent.

Bretts, a manor, poſſeſſed by John Ferrers; he died in 1478. It has ſince paſſed through very illuſtrious, but unfortunate hands, having been owned by Edward earl of Warwick, after whoſe decapitation it was ſettled upon Catherine, the firſt queen of Henry VIII., then granted to Margaret counteſs of Saliſbury, at whoſe untimely end, veſting again in the crown, Sir Peter Meautis and Jane his wife received it for their lives; the fee was granted by Elizabeth to Sir Thomas Heneage. Joſeph Beauchamp, Eſq., is the preſent poſſeſſor.

Cobhams or Chobhams, a manor held under the abbot of Stratford-Langthorne and Hugh Burnel, was the property of Sir Adam Francis at the beginning of the fifteenth century: it is now that of Sir John Henniker, Bart. The manor-houſe is about a mile north-weſt of the church, in the road leading from Stratford to Leyton.

Wood-grange manor, ſome tithes, with certain privileges and immunities belonging to Stratford monaſtery, was, at its ſuppreſſion, under a ſixty years leaſe to Morgan Philips, alias Wolfe. They were granted by Elizabeth for ſeventy years, commencing from the termination of the preceding term, to Robert earl of Leiceſter, her great, but every way unworthy favourite. George Carew, Eſq., owned the remainder of the term in 1605: in 1627 he obtained a grant in perpetuity of this manor, paying a yearly quit-rent of 27*l.* 2*s.* Previous to this he had been created by Charles I. earl of Totneſs, in Devonſhire, his native county: he was a character the moſt oppoſite to Leiceſter; he roſe by his merit from a younger brother's fortune in the ſervice of the earl of Warwick, to be a nobleman of equal rank, and died March 27, 1629, a wiſe and faithful miniſter to three ſovereigns, each of whom no leſs eſteemed than truſted him. He ſaw, admired, and loved Joice, only daughter and heireſs of William Clopton, of Clopton-hall, near Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickſhire, Eſq., who, ſenſible of his extraordinary merit, as well as perſonal accompliſhments, ardently wiſhed to give him her hand, though then much inferior in point of fortune to herſelf: but there was an invincible obſtacle; he was a ſtrenuous proteſtant, Mr. Clopton a moſt bigotted Roman catholic. The propoſition made by a common friend was ſo diſtaſteful, that he refuſed ever to ſee him.

him. After ſome time, Mr. Clopton admiring the elegant perſon, and charmed with the many accompliſhments of a young gentleman whom he met with in the chaſe, invited the unknown ſtranger to his ſeat: he ſeemed to yield with reluctance; an eclairciſſement took place: the enraptured parent gave a willing conſent to an union with ſo much worth. It is difficult to determine whether Mr. Clopton was more bleſſed in ſuch a ſon-in-law, or the earl and his counteſs with each other. Unfortunately, lord Totneſs having no iſſue, the title became extinct; ſhe ſurviving, enjoyed Wood-grange. She is buried near him in the church of Stratford-upon-Avon, under a ſuperb monument, which gives their effigies. This manor is now poſſeſſed by Mr. John Peacock in right of his wife, whoſe relations had held it ſome years.

Chriſtendom-houſe ſtood in this pariſh: it was the ſeat of Robert Chriſtendom in 1443, who deviſed his manors in Weſtham, Stratford-Langthorne, Eaſtham, Leyton, Barking, and Dagenham, with his rents, lands, and ſervices in thoſe pariſhes, to be diſpoſed of, and the money given for maſſes, and benefactions to the poor, for the good of his own ſoul and thoſe of his anceſtors. This ancient manſion ſtood at Plaiſtow; it is now taken down.

Hyde-houſe, a very ancient manſion, is alſo at Plaiſtow: the windows have ſeveral coats of arms ſtained in the glaſs, and there are the dates 1559 and 1579 on a wall near, and over a gateway leading to the ſeat. Tradition ſays it was inhabited by the monks of Stratford, after the ſuppreſſion of their convent. In the ſeventeenth century Sir Thomas Foot, lord mayor of London, and after him the Onſlows, made it their reſidence. It is now occupied by Mr. John James.

Weſtham, in the ſame eccleſiaſtical juriſdiction, is a vicarage, in the gift of the crown, valued in the king's books at 39*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a large ſtructure, with a ſquare tower ſeventy-four feet high, containing ten bells. There is a monument of Sir Thomas Foot, lord mayor of London in 1650, and his lady: he died October 12, 1688, in his ninety-ſixth year: ſhe October 12, 1667, in the ſeventy-fourth year of her age. The Rev. William Cropley is the preſent incumbent.

There is a charity ſchool, which has received benefactions to the amount of 3000*l.*, where twenty girls and forty boys are educated. Mrs. Mary Bonnel, in 1761, bequeathed 3000*l.* to endow a girls' ſchool, where forty females are clothed,

and

and taught reading and writing: ſewing, knitting, and ſpinning, would perhaps have been better than writing.

The Roman catholics have a chapel at Stratford, and the preſbyterians had a meeting-houſe; the latter has long been diſuſed. The methodiſts have a meeting-houſe and burying-ground in Brickfields, and the quakers a meeting-houſe at Plaiſtow.

Aaron Hill, Eſq. ſo well known as a poet and dramatic writer, choſe Plaiſtow for his retirement, ſpending his time in ſtudy, educating his family, and cultivating his garden. He died February 8, 1750, aged ſixty-five. George Edwards, Eſq., F. R. S. who publiſhed the Natural Hiſtory of Birds, was born at Stratford in this pariſh, April 3, 1693; he died July 23, 1773, and was buried in the churchyard: his abilities procured him the acquaintance of the firſt literary characters, and his virtues their eſteem.

John and Eſther Flowerday, on December 16, 1789, had John, Henry, and Sarah, their children, baptized, being all born on one day. A monument in the church acquaints us that John Hammerton, Eſq., ſergeant at arms to Henry VIII., with Edith his wife; Richard Hammerton, of Tedſton, in Yorkſhire; John and Richard his ſons, all fell ſick in one hour, and died in an hour, in 1512. In the church is alſo a tomb to protect the remains of William Millington, Joan his wife, Henry and Suſan their ſon and daughter, who all died on Auguſt 20, 1683. In the regiſter is this dreadful cataſtrophe recorded: "April 16, 1690, Peter Paine "and his wife, and his ſon Peter, and the parſon, and his maid, was blown up, "all in one day," by an exploſion of gunpowder.

LEYTON.

TO the north of Weſtham is Leyton, or Low Leyton: the name is expreſſive of its ſituation upon the Ley river. It contains 1700 acres in about theſe proportions; 150 marſh, 250 waſte in Epping foreſt, twenty-five uſed by nurſerymen and market gardeners; the remainder equally meadow and arable; 200 of the latter are uſed for raiſing potatoes. The ſoil gravel, with fine ſprings, or clay. Leyton is aſſeſſed 458*l.* 12*s.* to the land-tax, being about 2*s.* in the pound. There are about 380 houſes in the pariſh, 180 of them taxable. Temple mills, uſed

ſome years ſince for braſs-works, are now employed in the manufacture of ſheet lead.

The manor of Leyton, or Leyton Grange, at the Conqueſt belonged to Robert de Corbutie. Walter Corpechun gave, and Ralph de Arderne confirmed it to the convent of Stratford-Langthorne. At the diſſolution Henry VIII. granted it to the lord chancellor of England, Thomas lord Wriotheſley, afterwards earl of Southampton; who the day following conveyed it to Sir Ralph Warren, from whoſe family, by marriage, it went to Sir Henry Williams, alias Cromwell, Knt., and to his ſon Sir Oliver Williams, alias Cromwell, knight of the Bath, grandfather and uncle to the protector Oliver Cromwell: Sir Oliver ſold it in 1599 to the Rider family. This manor was afterwards divided into various moieties; all the parts have lately been reunited by John Pardoe, Eſq., except the manor-houſe, which is owned by Thomas Lane, Eſq.

Marks, a manor, part of the poſſeſſion of St. Helen's priory, at the ſuppreſſion granted to the Withipols, has, after various transfers, been purchaſed by Mr. Pardoe. The ancient manſion ſtood upon the confines of this and Walthamſtow pariſhes; the preſent one ſtill retaining the name of Mark's-hall: it is uſed as a farm-houſe.

Ruckolt, anciently Rocholt, Rookwood, belonged, in the thirteenth century, to the family of Bumpſted. It came to the crown by the attainture of Sir Richard Charlton, for his adherence to Richard III.: was granted by Henry VII. to Sir John Ryſley, at whoſe death returning to the crown, Henry VIII. gave it to the Comptons, anceſtors of the earls of Northampton, one of whom ſold the manor to Henry Parſiſh, gent., whoſe widow marrying Sir Michael Hickes, ſecretary to the prime miniſter lord Burleigh, that gentleman purchaſed it of the heirs of Mrs. Parvis, and it became the ſeat of the Hickes's, for ſome time. Sir James Tylney-Long, Bart., is now the poſſeſſor. The manſion ſtanding about a mile ſouth of the church is ſuppoſed to have been that in which Sir Michael Hickes received his ſovereign queen Elizabeth. William Barton in 1742, 1743, and 1744, uſed it as a place of public amuſements, where breakfaſts and afternoon concerts were weekly given during the ſummer, and ſometimes oratorios performed. In 1757 the houſe was taken down.

There was another manor owned by Peter de Valoines at the Conqueſt, which Gunnora, his deſcendant, gave to the nunnery of Holiwell, and at the diſſolution

was granted to Morgan Philips, alias Wolfe: it is now ſuppoſed to be united to Leyton.

Foreſt-houſe belonged to Waltham abbey. Charles earl of Norwich owned, reſided, and probably died in it, in 1670, as he was buried at Leyton. This is now the ſeat of Samuel Boſanquet, Eſq., whoſe family purchaſed it of Sir John Heathcote, Bart.

Walwood-houſe, with an eſtate annexed, is leaſed by the crown to Dorothea Owſley, but is occupied by Robert Williams, Eſq.

Leyton, a vicarage, in the dioceſe of London and deanry of Barking, was given to Stratford-Langthorne priory, by Gilbert de Montfichet, and confirmed by Henry II. At the diſſolution the great tithes and preſentation went with the manor until 1649; like the latter, they have been divided. It is valued in the king's books at 18*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is a brick edifice, rich within and without in ſculptured marbles, to the memory of the titled dead, and others of conſequence from their gentility or riches. The preſent incumbent is the Rev. Thomas Keighley, A. M.

At Leytonſtone, the principal hamlet, are ſeveral good houſes, chiefly the reſidence of merchants. James I. reſided at Leytonſtone in the month of June 1604. Here is a chapel built about 1750, by William Dunſter, Eſq., but not opened till 1754, owing to diſputes between the owner and the vicar: it is now allowed to be a chapel of eaſe to the mother church, the vicar preſenting, and the biſhop licenſing the chaplain. As one third of the population of the pariſh is contained in this hamlet, this chapel is a very great convenience.

There are ſeveral public ſchools at Leyton. Mr. Robert Ozler in 1697 left 300*l.* for building a free-ſchool, and ſettled 12*l.* per annum on the maſter. The ſchool has lately been rebuilt: the number of boys educated here are fourteen, half from this, and half from Walthamſtow pariſh. In 1794 a ſchool of induſtry was eſtabliſhed for thirty girls; and there are four Sunday ſchools, where 120 children are taught their duty to God, themſelves, and their neighbours; theſe are ſupported by voluntary ſubſcriptions.

Mr. John Smith, a merchant, in 1656 founded and endowed alms-houſes for eight poor perſons; the 20*l.* he left them has been augmented by Meſſrs. Charles and John Philips, brothers, to 38*l.*

In this pariſh reſided lady Margaret Brian, the governeſs of three ſovereigns,

Edward VI., Mary I., and Elizabeth: Sir Michael Hickes, the elder brother of Baptiſt Hickes, created viſcount Campden; he was ſecretary of lord Burleigh, and, like his employer, was curious in making remarks upon whatever occurred. Strype was greatly indebted to his collections. Sir Michael had the friendſhip of Sir Robert Cecil, afterward earl of Saliſbury, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Francis Bacon, Camden, and other illuſtrious contemporaries: he died Auguſt 5, 1612. Sir Thomas Rowe, ambaſſador from James I. to the Great Mogul, was a native of Leyton. Mr. John Wood, who in his youth viſited various parts in the four quarters of the globe, reſided and died here in 1660, having contributed much to the rebuilding of the church. David Lewis, Eſq., a dramatic poet, the friend of Pope, died April 8, 1760, aged ſeventy-ſeven, and is buried here, as was his widow, who lived to the age of ninety. Mr. William Bowyer, the learned printer, was buried with his relatives, at Low-Leyton, November 25, 1777. Edward-Rowe Mores, Eſq. lived many years at Leyton, in a houſe built by himſelf, of a peculiar form, now called Etloe-place. Samuel Skeene, the puritanical vicar of Leyton, acted alſo in the capacity of captain in the parliament army, and tradition ſays preached in his buff coat. The oppoſite to this furious, ſanguinary fanatic, was the pious, learned John Strype, who for ſixty-ſix years faithfully performed the duties of his ſacred function in this neglected pariſh. The emolument was ſo ſmall, he never received inſtitution nor induction. The chancel was repaired, the vicarage-houſe rebuilt by him. He died at Hackney, December 11, 1737, aged ninety-four, and is buried in the chancel of this church. His numerous and excellent works will ever continue his juſtly-acquired fame as an antiquary and hiſtorian. "Old" John and Jane Hutton, of Leytonſtone, lived to a very advanced age, ſhe being buried June 12, 1672, aged ninety-five; he February 8, 1679-80, aged 106 years.

It is evident that the Romans had a villa here, from the many remains of architecture belonging to them, diſcovered near the manor-houſe, as well as conſular and imperial coins and urns. Near the Temple mills in 1783 a ſtone coffin, in which were ſeveral pieces of armour, was found in making a channel; this latter probably was a depoſit long ſubſequent to the Roman era.

LITTLE ILFORD.

LITTLE Ilford, on the weſt of Barking; the name of Little is given to diſtinguiſh it from an hamlet in that pariſh. Ilford was anciently written Eleford, from eald, old, and ford, one having been there long before the bridge was built. It contains only 670 acres; 480 arable, 120 of it potatoe ground; the reſt is graſs, chiefly marſh. The ſoil is generally a light gravel. The land-tax is 7*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, being about 1*s.* 2*d.* in the pound. There are only fifteen houſes in the pariſh. It is particularly noted for its great mart of cattle from Wales, Scotland, and the north of England, which continues from the end of February to the beginning of May, on a part of Epping foreſt lying in Ilford, Eaſtham, Weſtham, Leyton, and Wanſted; much of the buſineſs is ſettled on the high road at Rabbits, within the pariſh.

The manor now called Ilford Parva was granted at the Conqueſt to Goſcelin Loremar, and afterwards given to the convent of Stratford-Langthorne. At the diſſolution it was granted to Morgan Philips, alias Wolfe. Coming to the family of the late Henry Wight, Eſq., he deviſed it, after the deceaſe of ſome relations ſince dead, to John Wight, Eſq., and Mr. William Martin, junior.

Alderſbroke manor was purchaſed by Cromwell, the vicar-general, for the uſe of his ſovereign, from George Monox. Henry is ſuppoſed to have granted it to Sir John Heron, treaſurer of his chamber; his grandſon Giles, the huſband of Cecilia, the daughter of Sir Thomas More, loſt it by attainture: the fickle monarch gave the manor to Anthony Knevet, Eſq., for life, and ſome time after in fee to Catherine Adington, widow, and Thomas her ſon. The late Sir James Tylney-Long, Bart., purchaſing, took down the old manſion, and built a farm-houſe upon the ſcite: he deviſed it to his ſon the preſent baronet.

The pariſh, a rectory in the deanry of Barking and dioceſe of London, is valued in the king's books at 11*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* It is in the gift of the lord of the manor. The Fiſhmongers' company pay the rector 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* deviſed by Sir John Heron in 1521. The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is ſmall but remarkably neat; the low tower has a cupola. Amongſt other monuments is that of Smart Lethieullier, of Alderboke, Eſq., who was born November 3, 1701, and died Auguſt 27, 1760, whoſe MSS. and varied collections of Engliſh foſſils, medals, antiquities, and

and curioſities, evince his ſenſe, knowledge, learning, taſte, and diligence. The preſent incumbent of Ilford is the Rev. Hugh Price, A. M.

WANSTED.

THE pariſh of Wanſted, north of Leyton, derived from wan, white, and ſtede, manſion, is very pleaſant, the higher grounds commanding a view of the capital. Excluſive of the foreſt, it contains about 600 acres; 100 being corn, fifty potatoe grounds, and the reſt graſs; the ſoil is chiefly gravel, but in ſome parts clay or loam. It is rated at 235*l.* 16*s.* to the land-tax, making above 3*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. There are 150 houſes in the pariſh; more than half of them manſions.

The manor in the reign of the Confeſſor was alternately poſſeſſed by the abbey of Weſtminſter, the cathedral of St. Paul in London, and the prelates of that church, under whom, after the Conqueſt, Ralph Fitz Brien held. Eſcheating to the crown by the attainture of Sir Giles Heron, Edward VI. granted it to his chancellor Robert lord Rich, whoſe ſon conveyed it to Robert earl of Leiceſter; he deviſed this manor, with his eſtates in Wanſted, Woodford, Walthamſtow, Great Ilford, and Leyton, to his counteſs and her heirs; ſhe marrying Sir Chriſtopher Blount, it came, by ſome ſtipulations, to Charles Blount, earl of Devonſhire, upon whoſe death without iſſue in 1606, it is ſuppoſed to have veſted in the crown. George Villers, marquis, afterwards duke of Buckingham, owned this manor, probably by grant from James I. The Mildmays purchaſing it of the favourite, conveyed Wanſted to the anceſtors of Richard Child, baron Newton, viſcount Caſtlemaine, and earl of Tylney; from which family, by female deſcent, it came to the grandfather of the preſent poſſeſſor, Sir James Tylney-Long, Bart.

Wanſted-houſe has been for more than two centuries a place of great importance from its royal or noble owners. There was a very ancient manorial manſion called Naked-hall Hawe, probably taken down by the lord chancellor Rich, who upon the ſcite built a ſeat which gave place to the preſent ſuperb edifice, one of the fineſt in Britain, the deſign being as correct as the ſtructure is ſpacious. The front is of Portland ſtone, extending 260 feet; the beautiful hexaſtyle centre is ſupported by Corinthian columns. The rooms are proportionable to the building, the great hall being fifty-one by thirty-ſix, the ball-room ſeventy-five by twenty-ſeven, and the ſaloon

ſaloon thirty feet ſquare. There are four ſtate bed-chambers, and every thing elſe within and without in equal magnificence—whether we contemplate the pictures, furniture, the grounds, gardens, or the water. The edifice was deſigned by the architect Colin Campbell; the pleaſure-grounds by the owner, previous to building the preſent ſtructure.

Hiſtory acquaints us that Mary I. lodged at Wanſted-houſe ſome days prior to her acceſſion. Elizabeth viſited her favoured Leiceſter, and remained with him four or five days in May 1578. Here he kept his ſplendid wedding in the following September, with the counteſs of Eſſex, whom he was ſuppoſed to have purchaſed by the previous murder of her former lord. At his death his furniture and ſtock here was valued at 1119*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*—how different was the ſuppoſed worth of portraits then to what it is now, when thoſe of Henry VIII., Mary, Elizabeth, lady Caſimeur, lady Rich, and thirty-ſix others were only prized at 11*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*! and yet theſe were no doubt originals by the beſt maſters. James I. made it a royal palace. In September 1607 his majeſty reſided ſome time at Wanſted after his return from his weſtern progreſs. In June 1615 he was again there. Few characters ſtand higher than that of the founder of the Child family, the owner of Wanſted; Sir Joſiah Child, Bart., ſon of Richard Child, Eſq., both eminent merchants. Sir Joſiah died in 1699; and was ſucceeded by Sir Richard his ſon, created earl of Tylney. The Childs began the banking buſineſs, which ſo highly exaſperated the governors of the national bank, that retaining their bills to a vaſt amount, they preſented them all at one time: Sir Richard repreſenting the deſigned injury to Sarah ducheſs of Marlborough, her grace immediately gave him a draft upon the Bank for half a million, which ſhe had there: ſenſible of the impotence of the intended vengeance, an explanation took place, and the Childs became the firſt private banking-houſe in Britain, perhaps in the univerſe, a pre-eminence which that houſe ſtill retains.

Canon-hall, or Can-hull, before the diſſolution belonged to the priory of the Holy Trinity; it was afterwards granted by Henry VIII. to Nicholas Sympſon and Joan his wife. Coming again to the crown, Mary gave it to John Shelley; at the death of his ſon it went to two perſons deſcended maternally from the Shelleys. The whole is now poſſeſſed by Robert Cotgrave, of Iſleworth, in Middleſex, Eſq.

George Bowles, Eſq., has a ſeat in Wanſted, built by Sir Francis Daſhwood about a century ago: it has been owned by Sir Orlando Bridgman, Mr. Gough,

Matthew

Matthew Wymondefold, Eſq.; and by Humphry Bowles, Eſq., father of the preſent proprietor.

Wanſted, a rectory in the patronage of the lord of the manor, is valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, though repaired and enlarged in the beginning of the preſent century, has been rebuilt at the requeſt of the preſent worthy incumbent, the Rev. Samuel Glaſſe, D. D., in a manner becoming the reſident of the ſplendid ſeat of Wanſted. The edifice is brick caſed with Portland ſtone; the portico of the Doric order; the cupola at the weſt end ſupported with eight Ionic columns; the chancel, nave, and ſide aiſles are ſeparated by Corinthian columns; the pavement is of Painſwick ſtone, a place in Glouceſterſhire. In the chancel is a ſtained glaſs window by Mr. Eginton, near Birmingham, repreſenting our bleſſed Lord bearing his croſs, from a picture at Magdalen college, Oxford; in the eaſt window of the north aiſle are the royal arms; in the ſouth aiſle thoſe of the late Sir J. T. Long, Bart. The church was begun July 13, 1787, and conſecrated June 24, 1790. The inſide is elegantly neat. There are ſome monuments: that of Sir Joſiah Child in the chancel is very ſuperb.

A ſingular benefaction was left to this pariſh by Mrs. Frances Harriſon, widow, 1690, of a houſe for the reſidence of the widow of the rector, and if there be no ſuch perſon, the rent to go to the poor; but there has never any advantage ariſen from this judicious deviſe.

There are two charity-ſchools, one for boys, the other for girls, ſupported by voluntary contributions.

Sir William Penn, high admiral of England to Oliver, who was alſo reſpected and employed by Charles II., died in this pariſh in 1670: as did admiral Buckle, in July 1784. He ſignalized himſelf in taking the Glorioſo in 1741. Two of the rectors were diſtinguiſhed for their abilities. The poetic John Saltmarſh, one of the beſt of the puritanical preachers, died of a fever in 1648, brought on perhaps by contemplating the horror of the times. What he ſpoke in his delirium were believed inſpirations by the enthuſiaſts. James Pound, who held this church from 1707 to 1724, has rendered his fame permanent as a naturaliſt and aſtronomer; and the preſent learned rector has obtained a deſerved niche in the temple of literature.

This place, lying near a Roman road called Southern Icening-ſtreet, was a villa of ſome conſequence. In 1715 a teſſelated pavement was diſcovered in planting an avenue of trees in the park, not farther than 300 yards from the ſouth foundations of

of the buildings: ſince which time, coins, urns, pateræ, and other remains of that people have been found.

WALTHAMSTOW.

THE name of this village is derived from the Saxon words, weald, a wood; ham, a manor; and ſtowe, a place. The pariſh lies in the hundred of Becontree. It is bounded by Chingford, Woodford, Wanſted, and Leyton in Eſſex, and by the river Lea in Middleſex. The extent is conſiderable, having 4320 acres: 30 00 of which are encloſed; 350 open fields; 130 encloſed woodlands; and 820 roads and waſte: paſture predominates, but arable increaſes: in 1795 the latter from 425 had multiplied to 602 acres. The ſoil is gravel, ſand, loam, or clay; the latter generally prevails. There are the following hamlets: How-ſtreet, Wood-ſtreet, Marſh-ſtreet, Clay-ſtreet, Chapel-end, &c.

The manor of Walthamſtow was the property of Waltheof earl of Northumberland in the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, whoſe daughter and coheir brought it in marriage to Ralph de Toni, ſtandard-bearer to William the Conqueror. For ſeveral years it remained in his poſterity. In 1309 the family became extinct in Robert de Toni; he dying without iſſue, when the inheritance of the manor of Walthamſtow, called Walthamſtow Tony, went to his ſiſter, relict of Thomas de Leybourne, afterwards married to Guy de Beauchamp earl of Warwick. About this time a part of the eſtate was granted away and took another name, that of Low Hall, or Walthamſtow Bedyk. After the death of the earl, this ſiſter married William le Zouch, who ſurvived her and held this manor till his own death in 1337, when the inheritance devolved on Thomas Beauchamp earl of Warwick. Thomas the ſucceeding earl, being attainted, was beheaded and his eſtates forfeited, and the manor of Walthamſtow Tony was granted to William Scroop earl of Wiltſhire. The earl of Wiltſhire was attainted on the acceſſion of Henry IV., and the earl of Warwick's ſon being reſtored to the eſtates and honours, died ſeiſed of this manor in 1401. In 1445 Henry earl of Warwick died, leaving an only daughter, an infant, who ſurvived but four years; his eſtates were then divided with his two ſiſters, Eleanor and Anne. Eleanor, who had the manor of Walthamſtow Tony, firſt married lord Roos, and afterwards Edmund duke of Somerſet. She died in 1467. From her this manor deſcended to the daughter and heir of the earl of Rutland; who marrying Sir William Cecil, ſon

and heir of the earl of Exeter, died in the poſſeſſion of it in 1591, leaving William Cecil lord Roos her ſon and heir. He died in 1618 without iſſue, having obtained a confirmation of the manor, which afterwards went to his widow, Elizabeth daughter of Sir Thomas Lake and her family. Sir George Rodney purchaſed it without a licence of Sir Arthur Lake, and having obtained the king's pardon for it, ſold it afterwards to William lord Maynard: it is now the property of the right honourable Charles viſcount Maynard.

A court-leet and court-baron are held for this manor. The reverſion of the manor of Walthamſtow Bedyk, or Low Hall, after the death of Maud, widow of Simon Francis, from whom it was alſo called the manor of Walthamſtow Francis, was purchaſed by Thomas Beauchamp earl of Warwick, who before poſſeſſed the other manor. They continued in the ſame hands till the death of Anne Beauchamp, when Walthamſtow Francis fell to the ſhare of Anne, ſiſter of the earl of Warwick, and wife of Richard Neville earl of Saliſbury, who enjoyed in her right alſo the title of earl of Warwick. After the death of this earl, at the battle of Barnet, his eſtates were all ſeized by the crown, and John Hugford had the manor granted to him; he died in poſſeſſion of it in 1485. A leaſe was granted of it in 1521 for twenty-one years to John Jenyns, as it was then veſted in the crown. In 1528 it was granted to John Limſey and his heirs male; and in 1541 to Sir Ralph Sadler in fee. In 1550 Laurence Wennington and Ralph Saunders held it in free ſocage. It was in 1553 granted to Thomas Argall, whoſe deſcendants enjoyed it for ſeveral generations. The heireſs of this family married John Greene, Eſq. of Dover-ſtreet, who died in 1718. In 1741 it was purchaſed of his repreſentatives by Samuel Boſanquet, Eſq. father of Samuel Boſanquet the preſent proprietor.

The manor of Higham Benſtead was the property of a freeman named Haldan, in the reign of the Confeſſor. Peter de Valoines had it at the time Domeſday was taken; his grand-daughter, Lora, brought it in marriage to Alexander de Baliol; John de Benſted, a juſtice of the common pleas and baron of the realm in the reign of Edward III., purchaſed it of him. It remained in his family till 1494, when it was ſold to John Ryſhe and others. It being ſoon after veſted in the crown, it was leaſed to Sir John Heron. The leaſe reverted to the crown, his ſon Sir Giles being attainted of high treaſon, when Henry VIII. leaſed the manor to Cuthbert Hutton, Eſq.: but queen Mary, in July 1554, reſtored this eſtate to Thomas Henon, gent., eldeſt ſon of Sir Giles. In May 1566 Thomas, Edmund, and Joan, had licence to alienate the

the manor to Thomas Rowe, Eſq., afterwards knighted and lord mayor of London in 1568. It continued with the Rowes for ſeven deſcents, and was ſold in 1758 by William Rowe, gent. to Richard Newman, Eſq., who in 1764 aliened it to Anthony Bacon, Eſq., repreſentative in parliament for Ayleſbury, who built a very handſome brick houſe in the northern part of this pariſh near Woodford Wells. The manor was put up to auction in 1785, and purchaſed by William Hornby, Eſq. governor of Bombay, who ſold it in 1790 to John Harman, Eſq. Courts were formerly held for this manor, and are probably by this time renewed.

Saliſbury-hall manor took its name from Mary Plantagenet counteſs of Saliſbury. Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, who died in April 1522, held of that counteſs the manor of Saliſbury-hall in Walthamſtow. Queen Mary granted among other things this manor to Sir Thomas White and others. It reverted to the crown, and was granted by queen Elizabeth in 1590 to Robert Symonds, who died in 1623, and was ſucceeded by his ſon Thomas. In 1667 Robert Edge, Eſq. poſſeſſed it, from whom it deſcended to James Edge, Eſq., who bequeathed it to Richard Sheldon, merchant; upon his deceaſe, without iſſue, it came to Rice Fellowes, Eſq., who, by will in 1761, bequeathed it to his couſin George Dickerdine, who took the name of Rice Fellowes, and in 1778 ſold the manor to William Cooke, Eſq. His ſiſter, Mrs. Hannah Cooke, then poſſeſſed it. In the court-book this manor is ſtyled Walthamſtow Sarum, or Saliſbury-hall. The manor-houſe ſtands about a mile and half from the church to the north, in a lane leading from Clay-ſtreet to Chingford. A chapel adjoined to the old manſion, dedicated to St. Edward the Confeſſor. That part of the pariſh is ſtill called Chapel-end.

There is a villa belonging to the Pole family here, and ſeveral good houſes belonging to merchants, and others.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, conſiſts of a body and two aiſles: a ſquare tower contains ſix bells.

This church, as well as the lordſhip of the place belonging to Ralph de Tony, he gave two parts of the tythes to the abbey of Conches in Normandy, founded by Ralph his father. His wife Alice ſurviving him, gave the other two parts of the tythes, with this church, in 1108, to the priory of the Holy Trinity of London, who, having purchaſed of the monks of Conches the other two parts of the tythes, got the whole confirmed to themſelves about the year 1200 by the biſhop of London, and a vicarage ordained here; of which tythes and rectory, and of the advowſon of the vicarage,

they continued poſſeſſed till the diſſolution in 1531, when they came to the crown. The rectory, ſtyled and reputed a manor, and the advowſon of the vicarage were granted in 1544 by Henry VIII. to Paul and Edmund Withipole and their heirs: they preſented to the vicarage till 1576. In 1600 Sir Reginald Argall bought the whole. This eſtate was afterwards diſmembered.

The manor of the rectory came to Richard Cooper, Eſq., who gave it to his ſiſter Elizabeth, who left it by will in 1708 to Sir Thomas Fanſhaw. In the year 1730 the Fanſhaws ſold it to John Fell, Eſq. merchant, in whoſe family it continued till 1783, when it was conveyed to William Cooke, Eſq. In 1794 it was ſold to Stephen Wilſon, ſince a bankrupt.

The great tythes continued in the Argall family till 1663, when they were conveyed to Robert Shipman, Eſq. from his wife, who had them by will; they paſſed to John Maſcall in 1667, merchant, whoſe deſcendant in 1733 married Ann Aſgyll, and they devolved, in conſequence of the ſettlements made by them, to Arthur Aſgyll, brother of Anne, whoſe only daughter and heir married Alexander Marſh, Eſq.; and the ſole right and diſpoſition of this eſtate being veſted in herſelf about the year 1785, ſhe bequeathed the great tythes to the Rev. Joſeph Cuthbert, who is the preſent proprietor.

John Argall, Eſq., brother of Sir Reginald, ſold the advowſon of the vicarage to the biſhop of Chicheſter, Henry King; whoſe ſon Henry left two daughters coheirs, married to Edmund Wyndham and Iſaac Houblon; who ſold this advowſon in 1690 to John Conyers, Eſq. It is now veſted in his deſcendant John Conyers, Eſq. of Copt-hall.

The vicarage of Walthamſtow is in the dioceſe of London and deanery of Barking: it is valued at 15*l.* per annum in the king's books. There has been money left for the purchaſe of lands to improve the vicarage.

About 1740 a meeting-houſe was eſtabliſhed here for proteſtant diſſenters, principally at the expence of Mr. Coward, who placed Hugh Farmer there as miniſter. A new meeting-houſe was built about the year 1787. It is larger than the old one, and has a cemetery adjoining. The land-tax of this pariſh is 401*l.*

WOODFORD.

THIS place took its name from the ford in the wood or foreſt where Woodford bridge now ſtands. This pariſh was one of the ſeventeen lordſhips with which earl

Harold endowed his abbey of Waltham Holy-croſs, and was confirmed to that monaſtery with all its lands and appurtenances by Edward the Confeſſor in 1062. The pariſh is bounded by Chingford, Chigwell, Wanſtead, Walthamſtow, and Barking. It contains about 2000 acres of land, the greater part of which are meadow and paſture. A ſtrong loamy ſoil generally predominates. A conſiderable part of the foreſt of Waltham, commonly called Epping Foreſt, is in this pariſh.

The manor and church of this pariſh continued in the abbot and monks till their diſſolution in 1540. The manor was originally given by earl Harold to his monaſtery of Waltham Holy-croſs. It was granted in 1546 to John Lyon. Sir Anthony Brown and his heirs next year had a grant of the manor, which appears not to have been valid; for it appears that Sir John Lyon, alderman of London, to whom the former grant had been made, gave it to king Edward VI. in exchange for other lands. The king granted it immediately to Edward lord Clinton and Say, who in 1553 aliened it to Robert Whetſtone. His deſcendant in 1640 ſold it to William Acton, by whom it was conveyed in the ſame year to Sir Thomas Roe. After his widow's death in 1675 it was diſpoſed of to Sir Benjamin Thorogood, whoſe ſon Richard conveyed it to Sir Richard Child, afterwards earl Tylney. It is now the property of the Tylneys.

The manor-houſe, which adjoins the church, was ſold by Sir Richard Child to Chriſtopher Crow, Eſq., who in 1727 aliened it to William Hunt, Eſq.: it is now the property of his deſcendant. The cuſtom of the manor is borough Engliſh, by which the younger ſon inherits.

William Hickman, Eſq , anceſtor of the earl of Plymouth and of Sir N. H. Hickman, Bart., was lord of the manor of Woodhall in Eſſex, and died at the manor-houſe there in 1420. Walter Hickman, who died in 1540, ordered his body to be buried at Woodford: he left to his ſon Clement four of his beſt ambling mares, his beſt gown lined with fitches, and his ruſſet gown lined with fox. He left 10*l.* to the church at Woodford, for the purpoſe of redeeming paſchal money at Eaſter; ſo that all perſons in the pariſh might ſay a Pater Noſter and Ave Maria for his ſoul, at God's board, and for all Chriſtian ſouls.

Buckhurſt, alias Monken-hill, and twenty acres called Maggot in this pariſh and Chigwell, belonged to Stratford abbey. After the ſuppreſſion they were granted by Edward VI. to John Lyon and his wife. They continued in that family ſome time.

At Woodford-row is a garden belonging to the Warners, with a labyrinth, adorned with many curioſities.

The

The manor of Ray-houſe was part of the poſſeſſions of the abbot and convent of Stratford-Langthorne, and was granted in 1541 to Morgan Philips, alias Wolfe, who left it to his ſon Walter Morgan. By him, in 1570, it was ſold to John Pilkington, who aliened to Nicholas Fuller the ſame year. Thomas Pereſon had it from Fuller in 1582. Iſrael Amyce next had it, and conveyed it over to the earl of Leiceſter in 1586. Sir Horace Palavicini bought it of the earl, and his youngeſt ſon made it over to Sir Charles Montagu in 1624. About the beginning of the eighteenth century, this eſtate was in the Cleveland family, from whom it paſſed to that of Hannot. In 1770 it was purchaſed of Bennet Hannot, Eſq. by Sir James Wright, Bart. in whoſe family it remains.

The pariſh church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is built of brick, and conſiſts of a chancel, nave, and two aiſles. At the weſt end is a tower of brick, built in 1708. The chancel appears to be of great antiquity. The rectory has always been appendant to and gone with the manor. It is in the dioceſe of London and in the deanery of Barking. It is valued in the king's books at 11*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*

Woodford Wells were formerly in great repute, but now are totally neglected; they are ſituated in the foreſt, near the nine mile ſtone. Near the bridge is a patent manufactory of artificial ſlate. This ſlate is uſed for covering roofs of houſes, water pipes, &c. A conſiderable quantity has been exported to the Weſt Indies. The pariſh is rated at 1850*l.* land-tax.

There are within the circumference of this hundred about 500 acres of marſh land adjoining to the river Thames, and are divided by that river from Kent; which, notwithſtanding, belong to the pariſh of Woolwich, and are rated to pay taxes as part of that pariſh; it is not eaſy to account for this circumſtance, unleſs it be that the Thames had altered its courſe, and run formerly on the north of this marſh-land. Here was once a chapel of eaſe, of which the foundations are ſtill viſible.

Half Hundred of Waltham.

THE river Lea forms the boundary of Waltham on the weſt, as the hundred of Ongar is on the eaſt, while that of Harlow completes the triangle on the north. The length of the hundred may be about ten miles, and the breadth, taken in an oppoſite direction, about ſix. The whole ſeems formerly to have belonged to the great abbey of Waltham, and after the diſſolution, has continually been attached to the

the families of Denny, Hay, Wake, and Jones, who have been ſince that period proprietors of the ſite of that houſe. There was anciently a foreſt of ſome extent in this part, and the four pariſhes of Waltham Holy-croſs, Epping, Naſing, and Chingford, are contained in it.

WALTHAM.

WALTHAM gave name to a part of the foreſt of Eſſex; it is twelve miles diſtant from London, and has a market on Tueſdays, as well as two fairs, on May 14 and September 25.

In the time of king Canute, his ſtandard-bearer Toni, delighted by the number of the deer, eſtabliſhed ſixty-ſix of his adherents in ſome houſes which were then firſt erected here, and thus founded the town of Waltham. From his ſon Athelſtan the property came into the hands of Edward the Confeſſor, whoſe brother-in-law Harold founded the monaſtery. The riches of the monaſtery were of great advantage to the town; and a miraculous croſs, which had been preſerved in the firſt church erected by Toni, gave name to the place, and drew crowds of devotees to the ſpot. Harold founded a college for a dean and eleven ſecular canons, in memory of the king, Edith his queen, and the other branches of the family. Harold endowed his college with the lands of Northfield, Alwartune, Lambourn, Loughton, Nethes-well, Neſingan, Paſſefelde, Tippedene, or Epping, Upminſter, and Wodeford, in Eſſex, beſides many other lands in Hertfordſhire, Bedfordſhire, and Berkſhire. Maud, the queen of king Henry the firſt, became alſo a benefactreſs to the houſe. The poſſeſſions of the abbey were afterwards much increaſed by the donation of the manor of Thorendon, by Hugh Nevill. The church of South Weld was preſented by John de Chiſhull biſhop of London. The church of All Saints, at Hertford, was given by Robert de Valoines. Shudicamps and Badburgham, in Cambridgeſhire, the churches of Old and New Windſor, Wrangle, in Lincolnſhire, Leverton, Geiſt, Norton, in Norfolk, Taterſham, in Surry, Epping, and Naſing, Alphamſton, Lambourn, Loughton, Nettleſwell, Woodford, Wormley, Great Parndon, and Stamford le Hope, were afterwards added to the poſſeſſions of the monaſtery. King Henry the ſecond gave to the monks the manors of Swardſtune and Epping, Waltham-hall, in Takeley, Stanſted, Thele, and the houſe of Walter de Geldeford, as alſo the tithes of Purlai and the lands of Dunton. Succeeding

ceeding kings added freſh gifts and ample confirmations to the abbey. Richard I. gave all the manor of Waltham, Harold's Park, and 300 acres of land, and the market of the town, to the abbey, which now became proprietary of the half hundred, paying only 60*l.* annually to the exchequer. Theydon Boys, and the manor of Katherines in Great Parndon, Waterman's manor in Matching, a farm in Sheering, the manor of Abbots in Stanway, the manors and rectories of Wormingford, Blakemore, Margareting, Priors in Bromfield, and Little Badow, ſoon after increaſed the revenues of the houſe. It was alſo poſſeſſed of the manor of Little Amwell and the rectory of Hormead, and of Shingle-hall and Copped-hall, Newhall, the manor of Cullings, and lands in Willingale Cavelands, with rents in ſome pariſhes in London.

The two fairs appear to have been inſtituted in conſequence of a grant from king Edward III. The abbey was ſubject to the juriſdiction of the pope and the king, being the twentieth in the rank of religious houſes in England, and ſending its mitred abbot among the twenty-eight of that deſcription who ſat in parliament.

The abbey was poſſeſſed of a revenue of 1079*l.* at the time of the diſſolution, an enormous ſum at that period. The church of the abbey has undergone ſome changes, and, like moſt others, has the tower at the weſtern end, inſtead of the centre, where it formerly ſtood. The founder, king Harold, with his brothers Gyrth and Leofwine, were buried in this edifice; and being diſcovered in the time of queen Elizabeth, we are aſſured that the ſtone coffin, in which the bones of the king were depoſited, was found, containing the bones, then entire, but which were ſoon reduced to duſt by the admiſſion of the air. Over the grave was a marble ſlab, ornamented with a croſs. Roger de Waltham, diſtinguiſhed as a writer, was born at this place in the fourteenth century, and John de Waltham, who was lord privy ſeal to king Richard II. Thomas Fuller, D. D. the celebrated author of the Worthies of England, was miniſter of this pariſh.

At a ſhort diſtance weſtward from the abbey of Waltham is the village called Waltham-croſs, in Hertfordſhire, now much increaſed by the reſort of travellers to the inns, which have been eſtabliſhed upon the great road paſſing through it. The croſs, which was erected by Edward I. in memory of his queen Eleanor, gave name to the place, and is of ſuch beautiful workmanſhip, that to neglect the mention of it would be unpardonable. The Society of Antiquaries have given accurate and beautiful plans and drawings of this elegant ſpecimen of the Gothic ornamental architecture of the time. It

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is to be lamented that ſo intereſting a relic ſhould be ſo ſituated that it is liable to ſuffer more from accidental injuries than from time. It is now at the corner of an inn on the great road, and ſome of its ſtatues are mutilated and its columns thrown down.

There was formerly a manor called Dacies, alias Croſsbrooks, at Waltham-croſs. There is an hoſpital for four poor widows, and a workhouſe for the pariſh of Cheſhunt, in the village.

The pariſh of Waltham Holy-croſs, in Waltham Abbey, is very large, and comprehends four hamlets that are manors, Seywardſton, Roydon, Upſhire, and Hallifield. Moſt of theſe were centred in Sir Anthony Denny, in 1540. In 1547 Edward VI. increaſed the grant. Roydon ſtands on an eminence, and bounds the proſpect, which part of Hertfordſhire enjoys. In 1742 John Gibſon poſſeſſed it.

The manor of Upſhire and Hallifield continued in the crown till 1571, after the ſuppreſſion of the abbey; when Elizabeth granted it to Richard Hill and William James. Lately Hallifield-hall has been in the hands of the Collard family. The manor of Seywardſton was purchaſed of the earl of Bedford in 1674, and then came to —— Southerby, Eſq. There are ruins of an old church.

The church of the abbey was dedicated at firſt to the Holy Croſs, pretended to have been brought here, and afterwards to St. Laurence. It is a Gothic edifice, larger than neat; to the ſouth ſide is a chapel. In the middle ſtood the tower, after the manner of a cathedral; but part of it falling down, a wall was run up at the eaſt end, and a handſome tower built at the weſt. This was done in 1558. The advowſon of the living is in the owner of the ſite of the abbey. In the eaſtern extremity of the pariſh, near Copped-hall, is a fine old camp, encloſing eleven acres, and here was probably fought the famous battle between Boadicea and the Romans. Waltham with its hamlets is thus rated to the land-tax: Waltham Abbey 1870*l.* Seywardſton 1772*l.* 2*s.* Roydon 752*l.* Upſhire 1756*l.* 2*s.* Hallifield 1677*l.* 1*s.*

CHINGFORD.

THIS is the moſt ſouthern angle of the half hundred, and takes its name from a ford, which was in the Saxon called the King's, or Kings-ford. It lies in the hundred of Waltham, about nine miles diſtant from Shoreditch church, and near ten miles from Whitechapel. The pariſh is bounded by Chigwell and Loughton on the eaſt; Woodford on the ſouth-eaſt; Waltham Abbey on the north; and on

the weſt, ſouth-weſt, and north-weſt, by the river Lea, which divides it from Tottenham, Enfield, and Edmonton, in Middleſex. It contains about 2100 acres of land, of which about 550 are arable; 1330 are graſs, and 220 wood. The ſoil is chiefly of clay.

The chief manor of this pariſh was given by Edward the Confeſſor to the cathedral church of St. Paul; beſides which there was another manor, belonging to a freeman, which was held at the time of the ſurvey by Robert Gernon. Hence aroſe two capital manors in this pariſh, one called Chingford St. Paul's, the other Chingford Comitis. From this laſt was taken another, named Gowers and Buckerells. In this pariſh are alſo Merry-mount, Low-ſtreet, Warren-houſe, and Chingford-green.

Chingford St. Paul's lies near the river Lea, a mile ſouth-weſt of the church. It has a court baron and court leet. This manor was in the poſſeſſion of the dean and chapter of St. Paul until the Reformation, when Henry VIII. took it from them. In 1551 Edward VI. granted it to Sir Thomas Darcy, with the advowſon of the church, who ſurrendered it to the crown again next year. In 1553 queen Mary granted it to Thomas Tonge's widow. Her nephew, Humphry White, ſold it in 1566 to Joan Lee, widow, whoſe deſcendant Edward Lee, or Leigh, in 1709, alienated it to Robert Snell, Eſq. barriſter at law, whoſe nephew John Snell, Eſq. of Brill, in Buckinghamſhire, had it laſt. The manor is exempt from the foreſt laws, and enjoys the privileges of the dean and chapter of St. Paul. Chingford-hall, the manor-houſe, is ſituated ſouth-weſt of the church, on the borders of the marſh.

The manor of Chingford Comitis was, when the ſurvey of Domeſday was taken, held by Orgar the thane, under Robert Gernon. It was ſo called from the noble earls to which it belonged. The manſion-houſe ſtands about a mile eaſt of the church, at a place called Friday-hill.

About the year 1188 it became the property of Fulbert de Dover lord Chilham, in Kent. In the reign of Henry II. Roeſe only daughter and heir of Richard de Dover, great-grandſon of Fulbert, married Richard natural ſon of king John, by whom ſhe had two daughters coheirs. David Strathbolgie, earl of Athol, marrying Iſabel the ſecond daughter, came into poſſeſſion of this eſtate: his ſon and ſucceſſor was executed for his adherence to Robert de Brus. His eſtates were forfeited to the crown, and the manor granted to Ralph de Monthermer earl of Glouceſter. David,

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ſon of the earl of Athol, compounded with the earl of Glouceſter for this eſtate, and had a ſon of his own name. Giles de Badleſmere died in poſſeſſion of this manor in 1338. His eldeſt ſiſter and coheir, Margery, brought it in marriage to William lord Roos. On the attainder of Thomas lord Roos, in 1461, Edward IV. gave the manor of Chingford to Thomas Colte and his heirs male; and then in fee to Henry Bourchier earl of Eſſex; who died ſeiſed of it in 1483. About 1490 it was reſtored to the Roos family, in which it continued till 1542, when Thomas earl of Rutland exchanged it with Henry VIII. for other lands. In 1553 it was granted to Suſan Tonge, widow, whoſe nephew in 1571 aliened it to William Jeffreyſon, by whom it was made over to John Branch, who died ſeiſed of it in 1585. Mary, one of his ſiſters and coheirs, brought this eſtate in marriage to William Udall, whoſe ſon Henry ſold it to Launcelot Bathurſt. The Bathurſts ſold it in 1666 to Thomas Boothby, in whoſe family it continued till 1774, when, after the death of Robert Boothby, it was inherited under his will by his ſiſter of the half blood, Lydia daughter of Benjamin Moyer, Eſq. and wife of the late John Heathcote, Eſq. M. P. for the county of Rutland.

About a mile eaſt from the church is an old manſion-houſe, called Friday-hill, which has long been the manor reſidence, and for many years the ſeat of the Boothby family. The ancient ſite of this manor was probably at the houſe where the courts are held in the foreſt. It is called queen Elizabeth's Lodge.

The manor of Gowers and Buckerells, now called Pimps, was ſuppoſed formerly to have been the property of Alexander Bayloll, who in the reign of Edward I. held lands at Chingford. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted the manor and capital meſſuage to Geffrey Lukyn. Rowland Rampſton had it immediately of him, whoſe grandſon ſold it in 1593 to John Hare. In 1598 Nicholas Hare, ſon of the laſt poſſeſſor, ſold it to Nicholas Barnſley, whoſe daughter and coheir married Thomas Nodes, and had this manor as a part of her portion. In 1631 Nodes ſold it to Thomas Gundry, Eſq. whoſe deſcendant in 1729 ſold it to Iſrael Hammond, Eſq.

The pariſh church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and is a ſmall building of flint and ſtone, almoſt overgrown with ivy on the eaſt and ſouth ſides. It conſiſts of a nave, chancel, and ſouth aiſle. A low ſquare tower is at the weſt end.

Chingford is a rectory, in the dioceſe of London and deanery of Barking; the advowſon has been always annexed to the manor of Chingford Comitis; except

for a very ſhort period, when, with the other manor, it was granted to Sir Thomas D'Arcy: the rectory is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*

In this pariſh is an eſtate called Brindwoods, held under the rectory by the following remarkable tenure: upon every alienation the owner of the eſtate, with his wife, man and maid ſervant, each on a horſe, ſingly, come to the parſonage, where the owner does homage, and pays his relief in the following manner: he blows three blaſts with his horn, and carries a hawk on his hand; his ſervant alſo accompanies him with a greyhound in a ſlip, both of them for the uſe of the rector for the day. He receives a chicken for his hawk, a peck of oats for his horſe, and a loaf of bread for his greyhound. They all dine; after which the maſter blows three blaſts with his horn, and they take their departure. There is a Sunday-ſchool and day-ſchool here, ſupported by the contribution of the pariſh. It is rated to the land-tax at 1744*l.*

NASING.

NASING compriſes the north-weſt corner of this half hundred. The Saxon word naſe ſignifies a noſe or promontory, and the latter part a paſture or meadow. This was one of the eſtates with which Harold endowed his abbey of Waltham. In 1547 Edward VI. granted the manor of Naſing, with the rectory and tithes, to Ralph Sadleir, Eſq. after they had continued in the poſſeſſion of the abbey till the ſuppreſſion. Sir Ralph Sadleir granted them to Sir Anthony Denny; they then deſcended to Charles Wake Jones, Eſq. The advowſon of the vicarage was not granted away, but has remained in the crown ever ſince the diſſolution. Only in 1688 Samuel Jones, Eſq. preſented it during the unſettled ſtate of affairs. The manor-houſe lies about a mile weſt of the church, near the meadows. Harold's Park ſtands in Waltham Abbey. In 1547 Edward VI. by way of exchange with John Dudley earl of Warwick, gave him Harold's Park, which Sir Anthony Denny obtained. In 1600 queen Elizabeth confirmed the title to the family. Richard Bateman next poſſeſſed it, his father Sir James Bateman having purchaſed it of Mr. Chauncy. There are in the pariſh Naſing-lodge, Long-green, and Brodley-common. The abbot of Waltham had a park here in 1225.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, ſtands on a hill, and is a large and ſtately edifice, from whence there is a moſt delightful proſpect. At the weſt end is a tower. King Henry II. granted or confirmed this church, with all its appurtenances,

tenances, to Waltham abbey. The monks continued patrons till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown.

The vicarage is augmented with queen Anne's bounty and other benefactions. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 2525*l.*

EPPING.

EPPING is divided into two parts, Upland and Townſide; in the former the church is ſituated, in the latter the town is built: the ſtreet of Epping is of a more modern date than the church. The lands in this pariſh are entered in Domeſday-book under two different hundreds: the one part under the hundred of Harlow, the other under the hundred of Waltham. Thoſe lands were afterwards divided into the following manors; the manor of Epping-bury, and Epping-preſbyter, Copped-hall, Shingle-hall, the manor of Chambers, Gills Campions, Madeleys, Hayles; Epping-long-green is alſo within this pariſh; Copped-hall-green, Ryſe-ſtreet, Lynſet-ſtreet, Epping-place, and Gregory's.

The manor-houſe, called Epping-bury, lies in a bottom by the ſide of the road, near a mile from the church. This was part of the poſſeſſions with which Harold endowed the convent of Waltham. When Henry II. converted this houſe into an abbey for regulars, he granted Epping to them with all its appurtenances. This lordſhip, however, being confirmed to the abbot and monks of Waltham Holy-croſs, continued in their poſſeſſion till the ſuppreſſion of monaſteries. During the remainder of Henry VIII.'s reign it continued in the crown, as alſo during the reigns of Edward VI. and queen Mary, and part of Elizabeth's.

In 1558 queen Mary annexed this manor and that of Copped-hall, among others, to the dutchy of Lancaſter. In 1572 Elizabeth granted the manor of Epping, and appurtenances, to Thomas Heneage and Anne his wife, in fee tail; he dying, his only daughter, married to Sir Moyle Finch, of Eaſtwell, in Kent, became poſſeſſed of it. In 1635 their heirs ſold it to William lord Grey. Till 1734 it continued in the Grey family, when it was ſold, together with Copped-hall, to Edward Conyers, Eſq. of Walthamſtow. At the foreſt court, in 1670, under Waltham-abbey, William lord Grey brought in a very large claim for this manor of Epping, for many privileges, courts, &c. as were formerly granted to the abbey; alſo that a market every week ſhould be allowed, as firſt granted by Henry III. in 1253, and two fairs, one on the Tueſday, Wedneſday, and Thurſday in Whitſun-week, the

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other the laſt day of October, and the two firſt of November. Lord North and Grey obtained a grant for two markets, one on Tueſdays, and the other on Fridays. The firſt is not uſed.

The manor was originally divided into two—Epping-bury and Epping-preſbyter. The latter holds a court-leet under a maple-tree in the road between Epping-bury and the church. They both belong to the ſame lord, who is lord paramount of all the reſt.

Copped-hall lies about two miles ſouth-weſt of Epping church. It takes its name from a Saxon word, which ſignifies the top of a hill, as it ſtands upon a high or copped ground.

The old houſe was a noble manſion, very large, having a court in the middle; it ſtood a little more to the ſouth, and within the bounds of Waltham pariſh, than the new one which is in Epping pariſh, as was determined at trial in 1671. The new houſe was built in 1753 in a moſt elegant manner by John Conyers, Eſq. The eſtate appears originally to have been part of the demeſnes of Waltham-abbey. King Richard I. gave it to Richard Fitz-Aucher, who built a ſtately manſion, and reſided here. It continued in this family till about the middle of the fourteenth century, when it paſſed over into the family of Shardelowe. Sir John de Shardelowe was poſſeſſed of it in Edward III.'s reign in 1350; he procured a licence for himſelf and wife to make an exchange of the manors of Copped-hall and Shingle-hall, with the abbot of Waltham, for the manors of Boreham in Eſſex, and Campes and Orſythe in Cambridgeſhire. In 1374 the abbot had leave to encloſe 120 acres of his demeſnes, and to enlarge his parks of Harold's-park and Copped-hall.

The manor and eſtate remained in the abbey till the reign of Henry VIII. It was then purchaſed for the king by Thomas Cromwell; or, as ſome ſay, the laſt abbot made over the eſtate to the king, in the hopes of preſerving his other revenues. Queen Mary annexed this manor to the dutchy of Lancaſter. In 1564 queen Elizabeth granted the park and meſſuage of Copped-hall to Sir Thomas Heneage and Anne his wife. He died ſeiſed of it in 1595. From him it went to his daughter Elizabeth, married to Sir Moyle Finch, afterwards created viſcounteſs Maidſtone and counteſs of Winchelſea. Her ſon Thomas earl of Winchelſea ſold it to Lionel Cranfield earl of Middleſex, lord-high-treaſurer in 1622. He dying in 1645 left James his ſon and heir, who dying in 1651 without iſſue, as alſo his brother who ſucceeded him, the eſtate came to their nephew Charles Sackville lord Buckhurſt, eldeſt

ſon and heir of Richard Sackville earl of Dorſet, by Frances his wife, only daughter and ſole heireſs of Lionel Cranfield earl of Middleſex. He was created earl of Middleſex in 1675, and on his father's death became earl of Dorſet in 1677. In 1700 his lordſhip ſold this eſtate to Thomas Webſter, Eſq., created a baronet in 1703: Sir Thomas Webſter afterwards ſold it to Edward Conyers, Eſq. of Walthamſtow, in whoſe family it ſtill continues.

The manor of Shingle-hall ſtands near or upon Epping-green, about three quarters of a mile from Epping church to the north-eaſt. This, with the manor of Copped-hall, both belonged to the Shardelowe family, and were exchanged by Sir John Shardelowe, with the abbot and convent of Waltham, for the manor of Boreham and others in 1350. Henry Fitz-Aucher held this manor in 1304 of the abbot. It remained in the abbey till the diſſolution, when it was farmed by John Denton. In 1552 Edward VI. granted the manor of Shingle-hall to Henry lord Morley and his heirs; and in 1562 that lord and Elizabeth his wife had licence to alienate it to John Benton, who died in poſſeſſion of it in 1570. It was purchaſed of the Bentons by Richard Day, gent., who left it to his grandſon in 1741, Sir Richard Day Jenoure, Bart.: upon his death in 1744 it became his mother's property. One of the Bentons claimed here a court-baron and its rights by preſcription.

The manſion-houſe of the manor of Chambers is delightfully ſituated on riſing ground, about half a mile ſouth-weſt of the church. It is ſuppoſed to have taken its name from ſome owner. It appears to have been an ancient lodge. In 1410 Edmund de Chambre of Epping held ſome land of the abbot of Waltham. In 1422 and 1430 Thomas, brother of Edmund, gave up all his rights here to Thomas Tyrell, Thomas Lyes, clerk, and others; and ſo did John Chambre, Eſq. in 1430 to John Randolph, clerk.

It next came into the Skrene family by marriage. In 1518 Richard Harper, Eſq. held this manor of the abbot of Waltham, by rent and fealty of a red roſe. John Halmer had it in 1536 of the king as of his abbey of Waltham. In 1557 Henry Halmer paſſed it to Robert Whorewood. It afterwards was ſold to —— Blackwell, Eſq.; and from his family it came to the Searles.

The manor-houſe of Giles ſtands about half a mile ſouth of Chambers. In 1556 this eſtate paſſed by fine to Anthony Browne, juſtice of the common pleas, from Thomas Hale, gent. In 1603 Richard Raynsford, Eſq. held this manor. In 1621 Thomas Palmer, Eſq. poſſeſſed the eſtate. It afterwards went into the Searle family.

Campions

Campions manor formerly alſo belonged to the Searle family, and before that time, in 1635, to Thomas Wynch. In 1748 William Eſter, Eſq. died poſſeſſed of it, and from him it went to his heirs.

The ſmall manor of Madelys or Marles is held of the manor of Epping, and conſiſts of two farms. The manor-houſe is a ſhort way diſtant from Shingle-hall. It belonged to the family of Wells, the lords of ſome neighbouring manors. Adam de Wells held it in 1345, at the time of his death, of the earl of Oxford, by the ſervice of keeping one ſpar-hawk for the earl. It continued with them till 1507. In 1534 Sir William Fitzwilliams, of Milton in Northamptonſhire, died in poſſeſſion of this manor. His ſon and heir, William, in 1553, paſſed it over by fine to John Green, who died ſeiſed of it 1624. The eſtate afterwards came to —— Rawlins, Eſq., of whom it was purchaſed by Mr. Blake, of London, merchant.

The manor of Rye-hill, or Riſe-hill, bordering on Little Parndon, lies in this pariſh, though in Domeſday-book it is placed under Harlow hundred. It belonged, at the time of the Confeſſor's reign, to Anſgar, and in the time of the ſurvey to Alan earl of Britanny. The hamlet conſiſts of only a few ſtraggling houſes, or ſmall farms or cottages. Part of this eſtate has been called the manor of Hayles. Nicholas Wychingham, Eſq. had lands here in 1433. In 1496 Joan Biddleſdon, widow, had this manor of Hayles. In 1570 John Smith, Eſq. of Epping, had it. In 1593 Sir William Rowe, at the time of his death, poſſeſſed it. It was afterwards the property of Mr. Searle, of whom Iſaac Foſter, alderman of London, purchaſed it. There are a few charitable donations to the pariſh.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is of one flat length: it has a tower of flint and ſtone, and ſtands pleaſantly on a riſing ground. In 1722 the church was thoroughly repaired and beautified: the body is paved with Purbeck ſtone; the chancel, without the rails, with Portland ſtone; and within the rails, with white marble, and wainſcotted with Norway oak. It is ſingular that the communion-table is placed at ſome diſtance from the wall, with a rail quite round it: it is ſuppoſed to have been done ſo by a vicar. The canons of Waltham had the tithes from Adeliza, ſecond queen of Henry I.

In 1548 the rectory was, with its appurtenances, in Thomas Cornwall, who alienated it to Francis Monox, Eſq. and heirs: but in 1570 queen Elizabeth had it again; it was then granted to Sir Thomas Heneage, and from him paſſed to the families of Finch, Grey, and Conyers. The firſt inſtitution to it as a vicarage was

in 1545. Before 1540 the abbot and monks of Waltham were ſole proprietors of it.

In the town of Epping, about a mile and a half from the church, ſtands a chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt. John Peryent had a grant of it from the abbot and monks; he preſented a chaplain to it in 1540 as a free chapel without cure. In 1550 Edward VI. granted it to John Cocks, Eſq. In 1552 Cocks conveyed it to Henry Archer and his heirs. In 1573 the chapel was ſettled in truſtees for public uſe, and the truſt has from different times been renewed. In 1622 a new aiſle was added to the chapel, and another in 1662. Epping is rated to the land-tax at 3520*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*

HAVERING.

HAVERING liberty is bounded on the weſt by the half hundred of Becontree, on the north by part of Ongar, on the eaſt by Chafford hundred, and on the ſouth by the river Thames. It is ſeparated from Chafford hundred by a rivulet, whoſe ſprings are about South Weald or Naveſtocke, and its courſe by Rainham to the Thames at Wenington. This liberty is nine miles long from north to ſouth, and four miles and a half in its greateſt width from eaſt to weſt; but near the Thames it is not more than three quarters of a mile wide. It was a member of Becontree hundred about the time of the Conqueror; in the time of the Saxons it was an ancient demeſne, and being one of the royal palaces, was made a liberty diſtinct from the hundred, having a court with power of life or death. The reaſon of this was, becauſe, it being a ſeat of the kings of England, the cognizance of crimes within the verge of their court was here taken; or elſe it was a privilege belonging to the royal palaces.

The name of Havering is derived from two Saxon words, which ſignify a goat and paſture: there is a legendary tale of St. John the Evangeliſt, under diſguiſe of an old beggar, begging alms of Edward the Confeſſor, who, having nothing elſe about him, gave him his ring. St. John ſome years after ſent this ring back to the king by two Engliſh pilgrims, with the information that he ſhould die within ſix months. They delivered the meſſage and ring to him here at his bower, whence the place was called Havering. Havering is divided into the following manors: Havering at Bower, Pirgo,

Pirgo, Dagenhams, Cockerills, Goſeys, Uphavering or Gobions, Reeden or Ridden Court, the manor of Romford or Mannys, Eaſt-houſe, Bedfords and Geddynghall, Stewards, and Marks; theſe all lie to the north: the following are on the ſouth: Nelmes, Lees Gardens, Maylerds, Bretons, Suttons, and Dovers. The name of Hornchurch does not ſeem to have been uſed here till about the reign of Henry III.

The manor of Havering-bower was a place of retirement of our ancient Saxon kings; particularly of Edward the Confeſſor, who delighted in its ſolitary woods as a place ſuited for his devotions. The legend ſays, that it was filled with nightingales and other harmonious birds, who diſturbed his prayers ſo much that he implored the Deity to remove them; ſince which period the credulous countrymen imagine that a nightingale has never been heard. It is a moſt delightful ſpot, preſenting a beautiful proſpect of the greater part of Eſſex, Kent, Middleſex, Hertfordſhire, and Surry; with a view of the Thames. It was here that the Confeſſor either built a palace, or repaired the old one: it was of free-ſtone, and covered with lead; ſome parts of the walls are ſtill remaining. The chapel, which is the only one in the place, ſtands near it, and is dedicated to St. John the Evangeliſt. There was alſo another palace at Pirgo, which belonged to the queens of England. Havering was generally a part of the queen's jointure.

Eleanor, queen of Edward the Firſt, enjoyed it, and there was with it a beautiful park. Anne, queen of Richard II., had alſo this manor. In 1166 William Hurel held land in Havering by the ſerjeantcy of keeping the park; and John de Ruyme in 1210; but the keeping of the park in general went along with the foreſterſhip of Eſſex. Richard de Montfichet had both, through nearly the whole reign of Henry III. Thomas de Clare, ſecond ſon of Richard earl of Glouceſter, purchaſed it of him; and it thence paſſed to the Veres earls of Oxford. But Thomas de Clare was deprived of it for a treſpaſs of one of his park-keepers; and Henry Fitz-Aucher had it, who was ordered by Henry III. to ſuffer a keeper of the park to have the tops of the trees there felled, as his anceſtors had before him in the reign of king John. In 1307 Gilbert, ſon and heir of Thomas de Clare, petitioned parliament for it; but with what ſucceſs is not known. Till 1483 the keeping of the park was given to different perſons.

Havering park contained a thouſand acres. The lands are ſtill in the crown, but let on leaſe. Charles II. leaſed part to the duke of Grafton. A South-ſea director had

had it next; and upon the director's forfeiture in 1721, this part coming to the South-ſea company, they ſold it to Richard Ladbroke, Eſq. Part of this is in the pariſh of Stapleford Abbots; the other part was leaſed by Charles II. to the earl of Lindſey, and afterwards enjoyed by his ſon the duke of Ancaſter.

Pirgo is ſituated near the Bower: the word appears to be derived from park; perhaps it was park-gate: and here may have been a gate which gave name to the place before the houſe was erected. This houſe was built in early times. It was ſtanding in 1226, in Henry III.'s reign. In 1559 queen Elizabeth granted to Sir John Grey the capital meſſuage of Pirgo, and the houſe called Piggs annexed thereto. Sir John Grey was the ſecond ſon of the marquis of Dorſet. He died in 1564, poſſeſſed of this eſtate and the whole park. In 1614 his youngeſt ſon, who had been created baron Grey of Groby, died, having previouſly ſold the eſtate to Sir Thomas Cheke, Knight. It continued in the Cheke family till 1707, when Edward Cheke, Eſq. dying without ſurviving iſſue, it devolved to Anne his ſiſter, relict of Sir Thomas Tipping, Bart. of Wheatfield in Oxfordſhire. She died in 1727, and leaving only two daughters, this eſtate, upon a partition, fell to the lot of the youngeſt, Catherine, married to Thomas Archer, Eſq. of Warwickſhire. He was created a baron in 1747. This ſeat has a ſmall chapel.

The manor of Elms, commonly called Nelmes, lies to the ſouth-eaſt of Romford, bordering on Chafford hundred. Nothing of an earlier date than 1549 is much known, when Sir William Roche held the manor. Robert Harvey, who died in 1608, held the ſame. In 1627 Robert Naunton, Eſq. was lord of the manor; but ſoon after it appears to have been diſmembered. It lately belonged to the family of Sir Thomas Webſter, of Battle-abbey, in Suſſex.

The manor of Romford: this is a market-town, which lies on the great Eſſex road, twelve miles from Whitechapel. Its Saxon name ſignifies a wide ford. Its extent is not eaſy to be aſcertained; it was formerly one of the wards of Hornchurch, but is now a ſeparate pariſh, conſiſting of four wards, called Romford-town, Collier's-row, Harold's-wood, and Noke-hill. The pariſh is bounded by Dagenham, Hornchurch, South Weald, and Havering. The land is for the moſt part arable; the ſoil various, but chiefly gravel.

As early as 1247 this town had a grant of a market on Wedneſdays: this is the general market: there is alſo one for calves on Monday; and on Tueſdays for hogs.

In 1768 the market-houſe and court-houſe were repaired at the expence of the crown. On Midſummer-day there is an annual fair.

The pariſhes of Hornchurch, Romford, and Havering, being originally one, form a diſtrict called the liberty of Havering-atte-bower: the quarter-ſeſſions of this are held at Romford. Commiſſions alſo for trying felons may be procured by paying a ſmall ſum to the crown; but no commiſſion of this kind has of late been applied for. All the manors belonging to this pariſh are held of the king, as of his manor of Havering-atte-bower.

Some have imagined that the road to Colcheſter this way is not of long ſtanding, and that travellers formerly went by way of Ongar, Hornchurch, and Greenlanes; but from accurate obſervations made by eminent antiquaries, it has been aſcertained that the way was through Ilford, &c. The town of Romford is the greateſt thoroughfare in Eſſex, from the eaſtern parts of this county and of Suffolk and Norfolk to London.

The manor of Romford is firſt mentioned in a record of the year 1299, when it was held of Adam de Cretinge, by Henry de Wincheſter, a Jew convert. In 1372 Sir Walter de Manny had the manor in right of his wife Margaret, daughter and coheir of Thomas Brotherton earl of Norfolk, and widow of John lord Seagrave. Elizabeth, daughter of Margaret's firſt huſband, and wife of John de Mowbray, inherited it next, whoſe ſon Thomas duke of Norfolk died in poſſeſſion of it in 1400. John fourth duke of Norfolk of this family dying without male iſſue in 1477, his eſtates were divided amongſt his coheirs; and the manor of Romford, alias Mawneys, became the property of James lord Berkeley, whoſe ſon William marquis of Berkeley ſold it in 1487 to the biſhop of Lincoln. Robert Dacre died ſeiſed of it in 1544; his ſon George Dacre in 1573 conveyed it to John Lennard and his heirs. Francis Fuller had it next, and from him it went to the Oſbaſtons; and by the intermarriage of an heireſs of that family came to James Milner, Eſq.; his deviſee ſold it in 1759 to Richard Newman, Eſq., grandfather of Richard Newman, the preſent proprietor.

The manor of Gedy-hall formerly belonged to the church of Weſtminſter. Sir Thomas Coke, alderman and lord mayor of London, poſſeſſed it in the reign of Edward IV.; he died ſeiſed of it in 1478. From him it deſcended to Sir Edward Coke, Knight, who died in 1625, leaving two coheireſſes, Anne, wife of Sir Edward Sydenham, and Vere, wife of Sir Charles Gawdy. They with others conveyed the

the manor in 1657 to Richard Eames, who in 1664 ſold it to John Burch, Eſq. Mr. Burch left it by will, after the death of his wife, to his ſiſter Rebecca Hotherſall, whoſe grandſon Thomas, by will, cauſed it to be ſold. In 1710, by a decree in chancery, it was ſold, and purchaſed by Benjamin Hawkins Styles and John Hunter; then Sir Francis Eyles, of a Wiltſhire family, and baronet, came to it; and in 1745 ſold it to Richard Benyon, Eſq., governor of Fort St. George in the Eaſt Indies, whoſe ſon Richard Benyon, Eſq. M. P. next poſſeſſed it. Sir John Eyles rebuilt the houſe, and greatly improved the place by planting, making canals, and adding other ornaments: it was originally an old manſion, built in the time of Sir Thomas Coke in 1467. Queen Elizabeth had been entertained there during her progreſs in 1568. The manor is of conſiderable extent. About a mile from Romford is Harehall, late the ſeat of John Wallenger, Eſq.: it was built in the year 1769.

The manor of Marks in Romford town-ward was formerly the property of Thomas Urſwick, recorder of London, who died ſeiſed of it in 1479, leaving five daughters coheireſſes. Sir George Harvey, lieutenant of the tower of London, died in poſſeſſion of it in 1605. Sir Gawen Harvey, his only ſurviving ſon, left it to Carew Mildmay, Eſq., ſecond ſon of his ſiſter Margaret. Sir Harry Pawlett St. John Mildmay, Bart., in right of his wife Jane, next poſſeſſed it: ſhe was daughter and coheireſs of Carew Mildmay, Eſq., of Shawford; whoſe name, in conſequence of that alliance, he aſſumed in addition to St. John.

The manor-houſe is about two miles weſt of Romford. It is a very old building of timber and plaſter, forming a quadrangle. It is ſurrounded by a moat, at two corners of which are ſquare towers embattled. The houſe is uninhabited, and only a few family pictures remain.

The manor of Stewards was the property of Marcellinus Halys, Eſq., who died in 1561; till which time little or nothing is known relative to this eſtate. In 1565 William Cade, Eſq. had it from Thomas Halys; Iſcah Cade, his wife, aliened it in 1588 to James Quarles, Eſq. James, the eldeſt ſon of Sir Robert Quarles, eldeſt ſon of James above mentioned, had a daughter married to William Holgate, Eſq. Their ſon William in 1708 conveyed the manor to John Wood, Eſq., who died in 1761, having left it to William Gill, Eſq. and John Leach, Eſq. Mr. Gill poſſeſſed one moiety, and John, ſon of John Leach, the other. About 250 acres of land have paſſed with this manor.

Sir Thomas Coke died ſeiſed of the manor of Bedfords and Earles, otherwiſe Nearles,

Nearles, in Harold's-wood ward, in 1478. From him they deſcended to Sir Edward Coke, who died in 1625. His daughters and coheireſſes diſpoſed of them to Richard Emes, citizen and cooper, in 1657, for the ſum of 9000*l.* Mr. Emes conveyed them to Joachim Matthews, Eſq. in 1659, who died the ſame year. Sir Philip Matthews, Bart., his ſon, ſold the manors in 1668 to Simon Rogers, merchant, who ſold them to Robert Woolley in 1678. In 1706 John Woolley ſold them to Robert Briſtow, Eſq.; and in 1710 the truſtees under Mr. Briſtow's will conveyed them to Wight Woolley, merchant; whoſe ſon, Houlton Woolley, dying in 1752, bequeathed them to his couſin Nathaniel Houlſton, of London, merchant; they were then purchaſed by John Heaton, Eſq., in 1771.

The manor of Eaſt-houſe, in Collier's-row ward, formerly belonged to the Cokes. Sir Thomas Coke had it in 1478. The Oſbaſtons had it in the early part of the laſt century, from whom it came to the Mildmays.

The manor of Uphavering, or Gobions, was part of the poſſeſſions of Thomas Urſwick, recorder of London, who died in 1479. In 1549 Sir William Roche died in poſſeſſion of it. In 1555 Thomas Leggatt, Eſq. had it. In 1636 it was the property of Sir Richard Minſhaw. Joachim Matthews next poſſeſſed it, whoſe ſon Sir Philip ſold it to William Curwen. John Curwen, his ſon, made it over to Sir Philip Hall. William Perkins next came into the poſſeſſion of it.

The manor of Reden-court, in Harold's-wood ward, was held under the manor of Havering, by the ſervice of finding litter for the king's chamber. In 1422 Joan Swinnerton, ſiſter and heir of Thomas Newenton, died in poſſeſſion of it; Sir Thomas Coke, in 1478; and for a long period it continued in the Coke family. John Hopkins, Eſq., in the early part of the laſt century, came into poſſeſſion of it by purchaſe. He died in 1732, and left it to his nephew John Hopkins, who, in 1771, bequeathed it to John Dare, Eſq., whoſe widow, the wife of John Marmaduke Grafton, Eſq., next poſſeſſed it. Her ſon John Dare, Eſq. had the remainder.

The manor of Goſeys, in Harold's-wood ward, was formerly the property of John de Dover, who in 1334 died in poſſeſſion of a meſſuage and various lands in Goſaye, in whoſe family it continued for ſome time. In 1445 John Chatterton died ſeiſed of it; Alured Cornbury, in 1486; in 1555, Thomas Leggatt, Eſq.; Thomas Moreton, in 1591; Richard Humble, in 1616. Elizabeth daughter of Richard Humble married Richard Ward, and, her brother dying without iſſue, ſucceeded to the eſtate. Sir Humble Ward, in 1644, was created a baron, and married the niece

and

and heir of lord Dudley. His ſon Edward lord Dudley and Ward rebuilt the manor of Goſeys, and ſold the eſtate afterwards to the Meade family. In 1750 Sir Nathaniel Meade diſpoſed of it to William Sheldon, Eſq.

The manor of Dagenhams and Cockerills, in Nokehill ward, lie near South Weald, at the end of the pariſh. Henry Percy earl of Northumberland died ſeiſed of them in 1454; Sir William Huſee, in 1495; Peter Chriſtmas, in 1517; and Thomas Leggatt, Eſq. in 1555. In 1637 Lawrence Wright, M. D. had a charter for diſforeſting the manor of Dagenhams. His ſon Henry was created a baronet in 1658, by Oliver Cromwell, and by Charles II. in 1660. Henry his only ſon ſucceeded him, but died in 1681, at the age of nineteen, his ſiſter being left his ſole heir. She firſt married Edmund Pye, Eſq., ſon and heir of Sir Robert Pye, of Berkſhire, and afterwards William Ryder, Eſq. As ſhe had the ſole diſpoſal of her own eſtates, and her children were well provided for, ſhe left thoſe manors to her friend and relation Edward Carteret, Eſq. poſtmaſter general. In 1749 Mr. Carteret's daughters and coheirs, Anne, relict of Admiral Cavendiſh, and Bridget Carteret, ſold them to Henry Muilman, Eſq., who in 1772 conveyed them to Richard Neave, Eſq., now Sir Richard Neave, Bart. The eſtate is an ancient demeſne. Sir Richard pulled down the old houſe, which had been built by Sir Henry Wright, and repaired and altered by Mr. Carteret, and has erected a large and elegant manſion on a new ſite. Cockerills is now a farm-houſe, adjoining to the park.

The manor of Lees Gardens is ſouth of Nelmes, and about two miles eaſt of Romford. Marcellinus Halys, Eſq. held this manor, with appurtenances, in 1561. In 1604 Thomas Hone, of Gardens, died. Lord St. John afterwards poſſeſſed it; and Mr. Fiſher was the owner of it in 1720. George Lewis had a moiety in it for life. The other moiety was in John Hopkins, Eſq. alias Probyn. In 1746 Counſellor Probyn ſold it to Mr. Dawſon, of the ordnance office.

The manor of Maylerds probably took its name from the owner, and ſtands near Hornchurch, about two miles ſouth of Romford. The manor of Wybridges has gone with it a conſiderable time. They once belonged to Sir Anthony Browne, then to Robert Charnock, Eſq. and William Fawkner. They were afterwards divided; for Sir William Ayloffe, Knt. and Bart. had the manor of Weybridges in 1627, and Mr. Edward Thorowgood paid quit-rent for it in 1659. In the ſame year alſo, James Ruſhout, Eſq. had it; he was created a baronet in 1661. He died in 1711

without children, and his ſiſter became his heir; ſhe married Paulett St. John, Eſq., of Hampſhire, and dying without iſſue, he ſold the eſtate to John Bamber, Eſq. M. D. and from him they deſcended to Bamber Gaſcoigne, Eſq.

The manor of Bretons is ſouth of Maylerds, bordering on the pariſh of Dagenham, about two miles and a half from Romford. It derived the name of Bretons from an ancient family named Le Breton, which had eſtates in this county in 1260 and 1310. In the reign of Edward IV. it belonged to the family of Scargwell, or Scargill, one of whom was appointed keeper of Havering park. In Henry VII.'s reign it was bought of him by William Ayloffe, Eſq. One of his deſcendants, Sir Benjamin Ayloffe, being obliged to ſell the eſtate, it was purchaſed by John Winniffe, Eſq. It afterwards belonged to John Auſtin, Eſq., alderman of London; then to William Blackborn, Eſq.; and afterwards to John Hopkins, Eſq., who rebuilt the houſe.

The manor of Suttons lies about three miles ſouth-ſouth-eaſt of Romford, adjoining to Bretons. It is a part of the eſtate of New College, Oxford, which they had with the reſt of the lands of Hornchurch hoſpital. The name comes from its ſouthern ſituation with reſpect perhaps to Hornchurch-hall. The college becoming poſſeſſed of this manor, with their other eſtates in the pariſh, have enjoyed it from that time; they let it out upon leaſe. Sutton-gate, a ſeat adjoining, has for many years been the ſeat of the Prujean family.

The manor of Dovers is the moſt ſouthern part of the liberty of Havering, adjoining the marſhes, and about four miles from Romford. It is ſeparated from Rainham by the ſtream that divides Chafford from Havering hundred.

This eſtate alſo derived its name from an owner, and is ſometimes called Newenhall. In 1298 John de Dover held a meſſuage at Newenhall, in the hundred of Havering; Richard was his ſon and heir. The premiſes were granted by charter, in 1454, to Richard Walderne and his wife. In 1519 the manor was parcelled out by licenſe. It became united in the poſſeſſion of Thomas Collett, Eſq. ſome time before 1606. Peter Collett, Eſq., in 1607, held the manor. His heirs and daughters were, Eſther, wife to Sir Anthony Aucher, and Sarah, wife to Sir Peter Layman. In 1627 Elizabeth Fountain was lady of this manor. Dr. Naſh, chancellor of Norwich, and the Rev. Dr. Dunford, were lately joint poſſeſſors of it; but upon the death of Dr. Naſh it became the ſole property Dr. Dunford.

Hornchurch is conſidered as one pariſh, which contains the above manors, in the liberty of Havering. It is divided into ſeven wards: Havering ward, Northend, Noke-

Noke-hill, Collier-row, Harold's-wood, Romford town, and Southend, wards; the other places in it of note are, Havering-park, Havering-plain, Wright's-bridge, Brick-hill, Mayland, Great Pondmans, Brakers, Marſhalls, Hare-ſtreet, ſo called undoubtedly from Harold's-ſtreet, Northend, and Southend, in Hornchurch, Langton, Hackton, &c.

There is an abſurd tradition, that Hornchurch hoſpital was built by a female convert, to expiate her ſins, and was at firſt called Horchurch, till a certain king riding that way, called it Hornchurch, and cauſed a pair of oxen's horns to be fixed up at the eaſt end; but it is more probable that the creſt was that of a religious houſe in Savoy. It is uncertain, however, whence the name was given to this place, but it was not till the reign of Henry III. This king was the original founder of the hoſpital. The revenues being ſeized, they were, with the leave of the pope and Richard II. purchaſed by William of Wickham, for his new college at Oxford; and from that time Hornchurch-hall, Suttons, with the church and the tithes of the pariſh have remained in the poſſeſſion of that college: they are ordinaries of the place, and the vicar holds the church for life, without inſtitution of the biſhop, and exempted from the payment of procurations, ſynodals, firſt fruits, or tenths.

Lady Tipping founded a ſchool here for twenty children, to read and write. The ſeveral parts of the liberty are rated to the land-tax as follows: Havering ward 931*l.* Collier-row 1047*l.* Northend ward 1556*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* Noke-hill ward 659*l.* Harold's wood ward 1192*l.* Hornchurch 821*l.* Romford town ward 2606*l.* Southend ward 2802*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*

Chafford Hundred.

THE name of Chafford is undoubtedly taken from the Saxon words, which mean ſwift and ford. The length of this hundred is thirteen miles from north to ſouth; and the width from weſt to eaſt ſeven miles in its wideſt part; but in the end towards the north, about South Weald, it is not more than two miles and a quarter wide. It is in the diſpoſal of the high ſheriff at the time being; and is in the archdeaconry of Eſſex. In this hundred are fourteen pariſhes: Alveley, Wemington, Rainham, Weſt Thurrock, Greys Thurrock, Stifford, South Okendon, North Okendon, Cranham, Upminſter, Great Warley, Little Warley, Childer Ditch, and South Weald.

ALVELEY.

IT is very difficult to account for the origin of this name; ley ſignifies a paſture ground; the former part is probably derived from a Saxon word, ſignifying a fairy. In the reign of the Confeſſor, the lands of this pariſh belonged to Suene, and to ten freemen; at the time of the general ſurvey, to John ſon of Waleram, and others. They were afterwards divided into theſe four following manors: Alveley, Belhouſe, Bumpſtead, and Bretts.

The manſion-houſe belonging to the manor of Alveley, is totally demoliſhed. It ſtood near the ſouth-eaſt corner of the churchyard. The field, in which it was ſituated, is ſtill ſurrounded with a moat; which although conſiderably grown up, yet ſtill appears round, and in ſome parts is filled with water. The ſituation is both pleaſant and airy; the ground falls gently to the ſouth, with an agreeable proſpect of the Kentiſh hills: this eſtate is part of what Waleram poſſeſſed at the ſurvey. In the reigns of Henry II. and John, it was held of the king by Gilbert de Tany, under the name of Anvilers; it afterwards came into the poſſeſſion of the families of De Brianſon, Bradeſton, and De la Pole. The Bradeſtons held it in 1360; and in 1433, as the inheritance of his wife, Sir Walter de la Pole was in poſſeſſion of this manor. In 1509, Alured Rawſon, citizen of London, and merchant of the Staple at Calais, was lord of the manor; he poſſeſſed it after it had paſſed through the heirs of the Ingolſthorpe family. His ſon left one daughter and heir, Anne, married to Sir Michael Stanhope, anceſtor of Lord Cheſterfield. It afterwards became the property of the crown, but in what manner is not clearly aſcertained; it was however made part of the endowment of the hoſpital of the Savoy, in London, founded by Henry VIII. in 1505. The maſter of this hoſpital granted it to John Martin, citizen of London. After the ſuppreſſion, Edward VI. granted this manor to the mayor and commons of that city, and it belongs to them as governors of St. Thomas's hoſpital.

The manor of Belhouſe had an ancient ſeat, ſituated in a park, about three miles in circumference, adorned with old oaks and various other trees. There was formerly a heronry in this place, but of late it has been demoliſhed.

The eſtate took its name from the Belhouſe family, which flouriſhed in the reigns of king John and Henry III. By a marriage into this family, John Barrett, Eſq., becoming poſſeſſed of part of this eſtate, came and reſided here: the family was of

Kent

Kent originally. In 1645 Edward Barrett, Eſq., died in poſſeſſion of it, and by will left the manor to his couſin Richard Lennard, Eſq., on condition of his taking the name of Barrett. In queen Elizabeth's reign, the title of Dacre came into this family. Thomas Barrett Lennard, Eſq., ſucceeded to the manor, on his grandfather's death, and to the title of Dacre on the death of his mother, in 1755. The manor of Belhouſe had a court baron and court leet, but they grew into diſuſe, as the lords purchaſed moſt of the eſtates, and added them to their demeſnes.

The manor of Bumpſtead, or New Place, belonged, in the reign of the Confeſſor, to Edward and Godmann; and, at the time of the ſurvey, to Odo biſhop of Bayeux and Anſgar the cook.

The manſion no longer exiſts. It ſtood formerly on the north ſide of Lord Dacre's park, rather more than a mile north-eaſt from Alveley church, and had a moat around it.

The manor formerly belonged to the family of Bumpſtead, from whom it took its name. In the reigns of Edward I. II. and III. Sir William de Bumpſtead, and William his ſon, had lands in the pariſh. In 1341 the latter granted them to Nicholas Staunton, clerk. In 1372 Ralph, ſon of Sir John de Staunton, granted lands to John Birch and John Siward, who, in 1373, granted them to Samuel Gryce and others, and they conveyed them to Thomas Belhouſe, Eſq., in 1375; after the ſuppreſſion of religious houſes, and that they had been veſted in other hands, Henry VIII. granted them in 1540 to Edward North, Eſq., afterwards Lord North; and he, in 1541, ſold them to Edward Barrett, Eſq., by which means they returned into the poſſeſſion of the heirs of Thomas Belhouſe, Eſq., who had given them to Stratford abbey. The manor has deſcended to the right hon. Lord Dacre, with the reſt of the eſtates.

Brooklands, a reputed manor, adjoining to that of Bumpſtead, was, in 1390, purchaſed of Robert Roydon by Thomas Belhouſe, Eſq., and by his direction conveyed to Stratford abbey. Since which time it has gone along with Bumpſtead manor.

The manor of Bretts: the manſion-houſe of this manor lies about a mile north-weſt of the church, within ſight of the road from Alveley to Romford; it is large and encompaſſed with a moat of water, and though ſince converted into a farm-houſe, yet ſtill preſerves every appearance of its former grandeur. The lower ſtory is built of brick, with ancient Gothic windows; the reſt is of plaſter. The ancient name of this eſtate is ſuppoſed to have been Kelitun, of which, in the Confeſſor's reign, one

Ulſtan had a part, and five freemen the reſt: at the time of the ſurvey, Sweyn and his tenant were the poſſeſſors.

Part of it took the name from its ancient owners, the family of Le Brett, which is a family of the greateſt antiquity. The other part retained its original name as far back as 1395. Hugh Le Brett, who died in 1266, had this townſhip of the king; his ſon John died in 1298. Thomas Le Brett, his grandſon, died in 1329, and his widow had an aſſignment of her dower out of this manor. Elizabeth, their only daughter and heir, brought this eſtate by marriage to her huſband Henry Baudwin, of South Okendon. In 1342 Robert Bolington poſſeſſed part of this eſtate; and, in 1375, his ſon ſettled all his eſtates, &c. called Le Bretts, in truſtees' hands; he died in 1395: Joanna, his daughter, was married to William Sautree, Eſq., whoſe heirs, in 1446, paſſed away the manor to Richard Andrew, clerk, afterwards dean of York. In 1462 he ſold the eſtate to Richard Sely, merchant. His daughter Iſabella became poſſeſſed of the whole, and in 1551 ſhe, who had married —— Cork, conveyed it to John Baker, recorder of London, afterwards knighted, then privy counſellor and chancellor of the exchequer. He having married the widow of George Barrett, Eſq., they, in 1554, after their death, ſettled the reverſion of this manor on Edward Barrett, Eſq.: from him it came to Lord Dacre.

Keliton, part of which was held by Sweyn, is a large farm belonging to Lord Dacre, now called Kennington. The poſſeſſors of it from Sweyn's time are not known till Edward III.'s reign, when it was in the family of Gernett. Sir Henry Gernett, in 1345, held it by a quit-rent, which is ſtill paid to the crown. William Truſſell, who died in 1480, held this manor of the prior and convent of Prittlewell. Elizabeth Truſſell, afterwards marrying John de Vere earl of Oxford, brought this eſtate into that family. Edward earl of Oxford ſold the manor and eſtates to William Ayloffe, Eſq., who died poſſeſſed of them in 1585. Sir Benjamin Ayloffe, Bart. diſpoſed of them to Edward Barrett lord Newburgh; and from him they paſſed over to their poſſeſſor Lord Dacre.

Lord Newburgh erected an alms-houſe in this pariſh, in 1639; it was taken down in 1745, and a ſmaller one built out of the materials.

Alveley was formerly a market town; the high road, which runs through this pariſh, was anciently called Bredle-ſtreet, and probably was a road in the time of the Romans. The ſoil in Belhouſe-park is dry, being gravel, which however does not prevent its fertility. The ſoil is of the ſame nature nearly throughout the pariſh; but

but towards the ſouthern part it is rather poorer: there are ſome chalk-pits, which afford good manure to the country.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and conſiſts of a north and ſouth aiſle, and middle pace. The chancel has a chapel or veſtry. At the weſt end is a tower of flint and ſtone, built ſquare; there was formerly a ſpire, but it was blown down during the great ſtorm in 1703. The church was originally a rectory and a ſinecure, in the gift of the abbot and convent of Leſnes, in Kent, till the year 1327, when the firſt vicar was admitted by the rector's preſentation. No vicarage was endowed till 1330, when the biſhop of London appropriated the great tithes to them, and endowed a vicarage, reſerving the collation to himſelf and ſucceſſors. The rectory and great tithes remained in that abbey till the ſuppreſſion of monaſteries. In 1525 Henry VIII. granted them to Cardinal Wolſey; upon his premunire they came back to the king, and he granted them in 1535 to the dean and chapter of St. Paul, and their ſucceſſors. The Dacre family leaſes them of the dean and chapter. Near the manor-houſe was formerly a chapel. The land-tax is 977*l.*

WENINGTON.

WENINGTON lies to the weſt of Alveley, bounded by Rainham on the north, the Thames and Ingreburn on the ſouth and weſt; it appears to have derived its name from the winding of the river. Before the Conqueſt it belonged to the abbey of Weſtminſter. Edward the Confeſſor acknowledged it, and in Domeſday-book it is found to be one of their manors. It was afterwards divided into three, Weninton-hall, Noke, Levingthorpes.

Weninton-hall manor-houſe ſtands by the church, on the left hand ſide of the road from Rainham to Alveley. The lordſhip was anciently in John de Mariſco. Till the time of Edward III. after him little is known of this manor; then Garnett, a family of High Eaſter, was in poſſeſſion of it. It was probably before them in the De la Hays. The eſtate was purchaſed by Sir John Gildeſburgh of Maud wife of Sir Thomas Charnels, and daughter of Sir Henry Garnett; from Sir John it came to Sir Richard Waldegrave and other truſtees. In 1480, William Truſſell, at the time of his deceaſe, held it; it came into the Oxford family by the marriage of Elizabeth above mentioned. Edward earl of Oxford, who had diſſipated his property, ſold it to Sir William Ayloffe. After the death of Sir Benjamin Ayloffe, it belonged

belonged to Thomas Allen, clerk, vicar of Cookham, in Berkſhire, and to John Allen, whoſe daughter brought it in marriage to William Aſhby, Eſq., of Harefield, in Middleſex.

Noke-hall lies to the weſt of the church, in the marſhes, and had its name probably from the bend of the river, which there forms a promontory or nook; it was taken out of the manor of Wenington. This eſtate belonged formerly to a family of the name of Noke, and it came afterwards into the family of Warner, of Kent. In 1457 John Warner, Eſq., conveyed it to William Iſle, Eſq. In 1460 William Pert had it; then Henry Andrew, of South Okendon. His ſon aſſigned it to John Barrett, Eſq., of Belhouſe, who died in 1526. It has deſcended with the other eſtates to Lord Dacre.

Levingthorpes was another part of the manor of Wenington, and appears to have belonged to Margaret youngeſt daughter of Sir Henry Garnett; ſhe lived about the time of Richard II. It derived its name from one of its poſſeſſors. In 1506 Reginald Biſmere held this eſtate, at the time of his death, of Elizabeth Truſſell. The name of Levingthorpe is nearly forgotten in the pariſh, being only retained in a ſmall farm-houſe, or ale-houſe, next the church. The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary and St. Peter, is a handſome building, and ſtands high above the marſhes, near the hall: it has a ſquare tower. The rectory was in the gift of the abbot and convent of Weſtminſter, till 1540, when Henry VIII. granted it to the biſhop of Weſtminſter. But upon the ſuppreſſion of that ſhort-lived ſee, queen Mary, in 1554, granted it to Bonnor biſhop of London, in whoſe ſucceſſors it has ſince continued. There is no parſonage-houſe. The land-tax is 918*l.*

RAINHAM.

RAINHAM lies to the north-north-weſt of Wenington, and is bounded on the weſt by the rivulet Ingreburn. This rivulet receives veſſels from the Thames, and has a very commodious wharf. It derives the name from two Saxon words, which ſignify clean; or a wild goat; and ham a village. The lands belonged to Alſi, a freeman, in the time of the Saxons, Alward, Lefſtan, and a prieſt. Odo biſhop of Bayeux had them at the time of the ſurvey, and his under-tenants; Robert Gernon and his tenants, Walter de Douai, and Haghebern. Thence aroſe the following manors: South-hall, Berwick, Gerpins or Gerberville, and Launders.

The

The manor of South-hall is ſo called from its ſituation in the ſouth of the pariſh. The manſion-houſe is juſt above the marſhes, on the left hand ſide of the road leading from Rainham to Wenington. This eſtate came to the crown upon the deprivation of Odo of all his property. Roger de Crammaville held it ſoon after, about 1250. In 1308 Robert Walround died in poſſeſſion of it. Alan Plunkenet was his heir. It coming into Edward III.'s hands in 1329, he granted it to Thomas de Weſton. Richard de la Bere, who had an intereſt in this manor, conveyed his right to Walter de Cheſhunt, and his heirs. In 1346 Menander de Cheſhunt conveyed all his right to Sir John de Stanton and Alice his wife. In 1390 Thomas de la Bere, of Dorſetſhire, releaſed to Thomas Newtune and his wife and heirs, all their right in this manor, and advowſon of the chapel. In 1503 Sir John Shaw, at the time of his death, held the manor of the king and prior. In 1519 a pardon was granted to John Makyn, for purchaſing this eſtate, and another to Ellis, for purchaſing the ſame. Sir John Rainsforth had a licenſe, in 1520, to alienate the manor to Richard Nix biſhop of Norwich. He forfeited it by premunire in the reign of Henry VIII. who granted it to William Bellamy, and he, in 1552, conveyed it to truſtees. In 1576 his ſon alienated it to Anthony Radcliffe, citizen of London. The manor was at length purchaſed by Elizabeth widow of Robert Conway, an Eaſt India captain. She was daughter of —— Wetherley, Eſq., of Cheſhire. A moiety of this eſtate was afterwards in Mary Johnſon, who ſold it to Samuel Heckford, of Clement's Inn. The other half was in Frances Howland, niece of Mrs. Conway, who married Barrington Taverner, Eſq.

The manor of Berwick derives its name from a Saxon word which ſignifies a hamlet; it is ſometimes called a pariſh. The manſion is about two miles north-eaſt of the church: on the left hand ſide of the road leading to Upminſter, there are the remains of a good houſe ſtill to be traced, although now but poor; its ſituation is very pleaſant. At the time of the ſurvey it was the property of Robert Gernon; his grandſon, Gilbert de Montfichet, gave it to the knights templars; after their ſuppreſſion, Henry VIII., in 1525, granted this manor, with the advowſon of the church, to Cardinal Wolſey, for the building of his colleges; but upon his forfeiture they again came to the crown. In 1544 the king granted the manor of Berwyke Rainham, and the advowſon, and the rectory, to Robert Southwell, maſter of the rolls. His ſon and heir Sir Thomas Southwell alienated it, in 1591, to Robert Houghton, Eſq., and others. Ralph Freeman, of Aſpeden, in Hertfordſhire,

fordſhire, is the next name upon record who preſented to the living in 1644, and died in 1665, leaving by his wife Mary, daughter of Sir William Hewytt, Knt. Ralph his eldeſt ſon; who in his lifetime gave the eſtate to his eldeſt ſon Ralph Freeman, Eſq., and he alienated it to George Finch, Eſq., a younger branch of the family of the earls of Winchelſea; his ſon ſold the manor to Sir Thomas Croſs, Bart., of Weſtminſter. Some parts of this manor were diſmembered by Sir Robert Southwell, the younger. The eſtate lies near Gerpins, and is ſometimes called Downe Hall.

The manor of Gerpins, or Gerberville, derived its name from the old family of Imperville. The manſion ſtands near the road leading to Upminſter, about a mile and a half north-eaſt of the church. In 1297 Laurence de Imperville held in Rainham, of the prior of St. John's of Jeruſalem, ſome lands of this manor. Little is known of this eſtate till 1631. Daniel Lowen held the manor at that time.

Of the manor of Launders very little is known; it appears to have belonged to Walter de Douai. In 1440 John Leventhorp had it, and Reginald Birmore in 1506. Richard Herde, citizen and butcher of London, in 1568, had this manor.

Dovers, a manor in Hornchurch pariſh, juſt over Rainham bridge, extended into this manor.

The church, dedicated to St. Helen and St. Giles, conſiſts of a body and two aiſles. The chancel is of one pace. The pillars are ſquare and maſſy, and the walls thick; the upper part of the church door is curiouſly wrought. There are ſome ſmall benefactions to the pariſh. The church was given by Henry II. or Richard de Lucy, the founder, to the abbey of Leſnes, in Kent. The tithes were granted to the abbey, and a vicarage endowed, the advowſon of which continued in the convent till the ſuppreſſion, when they were given to Cardinal Wolſey, upon whoſe fall they reverted to the crown, when Henry VIII. exchanged them, in 1536, with the prior of St. John of Jeruſalem. The rectory was granted afterwards to Sir Robert Southwell. From him they paſſed to the families of Freeman and Finch, and then to William Blackborn, Eſq. The vicarage-houſe being utterly decayed, Samuel Keckwick, vicar in 1701, purchaſed a houſe, garden, and outhouſes, for his ſucceſſors; and George Finch, Eſq., afterwards rebuilt it at his own charge. In the reign of Edward III. a charity was founded here by Sir John Staunton. Land-tax 1870*l.* 1*s.*

THURROCK.

THREE pariſhes adjoining the Thames are diſtinguiſhed from each other of the ſame name, by the addition of Weſt, Grey's, and Little. The two firſt are within this hundred, and the latter in the hundred of Barſtaple. The name is moſt probably derived from the Saxon, which ſignifies oak, here being formerly a large grove of oaks.

Weſt Thurrock is ſo called from its ſituation; in the reign of the Confeſſor the owners of land in the pariſh were, Aluard a freeman, Maurice, another freeman, and twelve others. At the time of the ſurvey, Odo biſhop of Bayeux had them, and his under-tenants. There is now but one manor. The manor-houſe has been called Weſt-hall, and Le Vyneyard, from its having a beautiful vineyard, now High-houſe; its ſituation is very pleaſing, on the ſide of a hill, and commands a delightful proſpect over the marſhes and river Thames. After Odo had been deprived of his eſtates for his conſpiracies againſt his brother William the Conqueror, the next owner upon record is Briançon, who probably had it from the crown. After the Briançons the reverſion came to Sir William de Wanton; he held the manor of the Earl of Richmond in 1347. It afterwards paſſed over to the Bohun family. In 1404 John Lightfoot and others were tenants of this manor. It next belonged to the Wideville or Woodville family; Henry VI. having granted it to Richard Wideville, in 1448, upon creating him Lord Rivers. In 1491 it came to Elizabeth Wideville, married to Sir John Grey, and afterwards to king Edward IV. In 1509 Sir Thomas Grey, marquis of Dorſet, died in poſſeſſion of it; his ſon, the marquis, paſſed it to John Spencer in 1517. Part, or the whole of it, under the capital lords, from the time of Henry III. to that of Henry VIII. was held by the Torell family. After William Spencer, Eſq., Sir William Hollis had the capital manor. In 1547 his ſon Sir Thomas Hollis paſſed it over to Robert Taverner, and he to Robert Long, citizen and mercer, of London; he died poſſeſſed of it in 1551. His daughters and coheireſſes were, Mary wife of Henry Vyner, Martha of William Meredith, Magdalen of Roger Sadler, who next poſſeſſed it. Meredith and his wife diſpoſed of their part to Richard Smyth and others. The ſon of Magdalen Sadler ſold, by licenſe, his mother's moiety to Thomas Owen and Stephen Duckett, Eſqrs. The eſtate was next in Chriſtopher Holford, Eſq.; it was afterwards in Benjamin Deſbrowe, Eſq.; he ſold it to Caleb Grantham, Eſq.

Purfleet is alſo another manor in this pariſh, and derives its name from a haven or arm of the ſea, here being a little harbour, where the river, which falls into the Thames, paſſes by Stifford. It belonged formerly to the prior of St. John of Jeruſalem, of whom it was held in the beginning of Henry VIII.'s reign. It was afterwards in queen Elizabeth: in 1583 Sir George Hart held it of her. About the beginning of the laſt century the manor belonged to Sir Biby Lake, Bart.; Sir Attwell Lake, Bart., his ſon; Sir Cæſar Child, Robert Hudſon, and Philip Hubert, Eſqs., were joint owners of it. The court of chancery ordered a diviſion of it in 1749. At Purfleet were formerly large corn mills, greatly to the annoyance of the country, on account of their admitting the tide from the river Thames, into the water-courſe which runs through Stifford from Bulvan, and is the ſouthern boundary of Alveley pariſh. That circumſtance is now prevented by a ſtrong ſluice. Government having purchaſed theſe mills, they have erected a large magazine for the ſtore of gunpowder; they have alſo made a quay for the landing of the powder, and built a neat houſe on the hill for the keeper, and barracks to guard the magazine.

Among the hills, near Purfleet, are limeworks and chalk-pits. Here was formerly a ferry over the Thames. The river made a breach and inundation in Weſt Thurrock in the year 1680; when trees and wood were waſhed out, ſimilar to thoſe from the inundation at Dagenham and Havering Levels, in 1707.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Clement, conſiſts of a body and two aiſles, and a chancel. It was the endowment of one of the ſeven prebends founded in the collegiate church within the caſtle of Haſtings, in Suſſex. The prebendary was rector, and had the great tithes appropriated to him; and preſented to the vicarage. Upon the diſſolution of religious houſes, Henry VIII. granted it to the prebend of Weſt Thurrock, with all the marſh and upland, and tithes; and in 1546 to Sir Anthony Browne and his wife. Daniel Holford, Eſq., lately had it, from whom it paſſed to the owners of the capital manor in this pariſh. The land-tax is 748*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

GREY'S THURROCK.

GREY's Thurrock derived its name from the old and noble family of that name, to which it for many years belonged. It is ſometimes called Great Thurrock. It is in the ſouth-eaſt corner of this hundred, and adjoins to Barſtaple. Part of the pariſh

pariſh is a ſmall town, upon a creek of the Thames, capable of receiving veſſels of ſmall burden. It is about ſeventeen miles diſtant from London. Richard de Grey obtained a charter of Henry III. for a market weekly here on Fridays, now changed to Thurſdays, and a fair yearly on the 28th and 29th of June, now on the 23d of May. Edward III. confirmed the grant in 1330. In the reign of the Confeſſor, the lands of this pariſh belonged to Harold and Almar; at the time of the ſurvey they were held by the Earl of Eu and William Piperell.

The manſion-houſe of the capital manor of this pariſh, once the Earl of Eu's, ſtands to the right of the road leading from the town to Stifford. Richard I., in 1194, the manor being veſted in the crown, granted it to Henry de Grey; which grant king John confirmed. From the Greys, who held it till 1521, it went to Sir John Stourton, their couſin, afterwards Lord Stourton, he being their heir. In 1564 Sir John Zouch was lord of the manor. It then went to Thomas Kighley, Eſq., who died in poſſeſſion of it in 1617. Then William Palmer, Eſq., purchaſed the eſtate: his ſon, in 1710, dying without iſſue, gave the manor and lands to Joſhua Palmer, Eſq., ſon of Dr. Palmer, of Devonſhire, on account of the name, although he was no relation.

Peverells eſtate came by the marriage of Margaret heireſs and daughter of William Peverell to the Ferrers family. William Ferrers Earl of Derby is ſuppoſed to have given it to the knights hoſpitallers of St. John of Jeruſalem; for in 1443 Henry de Grey held it of them. It is now involved with the rectory; the manſion-houſe of which ſtands in the fields, on the right hand ſide of the road leading from the town to Weſt Thurrock. A free-ſchool was here founded, near the church, by William Palmer, Eſq. There are ſome other benefactions to the pariſh.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and is built in form of a croſs. The tower ſtands on the north ſide of the church: it had formerly a ſpire. It came from the Peverell to the Ferrers family, with the other eſtate in the pariſh. About 1200 William de Ferrers granted the church, with all its appurtenances, to God, St. John the Baptiſt, and the poor of the hoſpital of Jeruſalem, for the health of his ſoul. The great tithes were afterwards appropriated to them, and a vicarage endowed, of which they continued patrons till the ſuppreſſion. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted the rectory and advowſon of the vicarage to William Riggs and Leonard Browne. They alienated them the ſame year, to William Goodwyn: he, in 1561, ſold them to John and Andrew Oſborne. In 1569 they ſold them to Thomas

Farnell and Thomas Ruſſell. William Kenrick had them in 1693. They afterwards came to —— Vanhatten, Eſq. The land-tax is 662*l.*

STIFFORD.

STIFFORD lies to the north of the two laſt pariſhes, and is watered by the ſtream that goes to Purfleet. It is imagined that this ſmall river was formerly navigable as far as Bulvan Fenn. It took its name from a ford, which was through it. It is ſometimes called Stifford Clay. In the Confeſſor's reign, the lands of this pariſh belonged to Aluric, Aluin, and Barking nunnery; and, at the time of the ſurvey, to Odo biſhop of Bayeux, and his tenants. It was divided into the manor of Stifford and Flete-hall.

The hall of the manor of Stifford ſtands a ſhort way eaſt of the church; and Ford-houſe, about half a mile weſt of it, on the north ſide of the brook. The Crammaville family appear to have been the earlieſt poſſeſſors of it upon record; they lived in the neighbouring pariſh of Rainham. It came into the family of De Tilbury, in the reign of Edward II. The eſtate was for ſome generations in the Ardale family. Thomaſine Ardale marrying Robert Latham, Eſq., of North Okendon, brought him this eſtate. Richard May had this eſtate afterwards, and then John Silverlock, Eſq., who ſold it to Nathaniel Grantham, Eſq.: Iſaac Thorley was the next poſſeſſor; it was purchaſed of him by Andrew Goodwin, whoſe ſon, in 1738, alienated it to Henry Barret, Eſq., of Southwark, for 5400*l.*; he gave it to his daughter, wife of Richard Cooke, of London; but it came, under a mortgage, to John Archer Shiſh, Eſq.

The manor of Flete-hall, alias Clays, has a manſion-houſe, which ſtands about half a mile north-eaſt of the church, on the eaſt ſide of the brook. Nothing is known of it till Henry VII.'s time. Theſe lands were moſt probably in the hands of the family of Bruyn, of South Okendon, about 1462. In 1471 Sir Henry Bruyn died, leaving two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne, coheireſſes. They were both of them thrice married. The eſtate of Stifford fell to the ſhare of Alice; Sir John Henynham, one of her huſbands, held the eſtate of Flete-hall. By the preſentations to the living, it is probable that this eſtate belonged formerly to the families of Harleſton, Durning, Twyſden, and Wylde; and after that to —— Godwin, and —— Smith. A manor called Tendering here, belonged to Joan Bradbury in 1530.

At

At the eaſt end of the village is a very neat houſe and gardens, late Jaſper Kinſman's, Eſq. An alehouſe, called the Dog and Partridge, belonged to Sir Thomas Gourney, Knt., and was anciently called Loveland: he, in 1622, had the advowſon of the church.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and ſtands in a pleaſant ſituation: it has a ſouth aiſle beſides the body, and a chancel and chapel. The tower has a ſpire.

The rectory was long in the family of Bruyn, and appears to have been alternately in that and in the Thorrell family.

OKENDON.

OKENDON contains two pariſhes of this name, north of Alveley and Stifford: it is not eaſy to ſay whether it had its name from a Saxon word, ſignifying an oak, and paſture hill, or from a proper name.

South Okendon belonged, in the Confeſſor's reign, to Frebert; and at the time of the ſurvey, was part of the poſſeſſions of Geoffrey de Mandeville. It was divided into the two manors of Bruyn and Grove. Not far from the church was the capital ſeat, which was very ſtately, on the right hand ſide of the road leading to Brentwood. Very little of it now remains: it was encompaſſed by a moat. In the reign of Henry II., Henry de Eu held of Geoffrey de Mandeville, in Eſſex, this eſtate. In 1222 Sir Richard de Rokele held this manor. By marriage into this family, Sir William de Bruyn, in the reign of Edward I. procured the eſtate. In 1471 Sir Henry Bruyn dying, left his daughters and coheirs this eſtate, which was divided thus between them into Bruyns and Groves. Bruyns fell to Elizabeth, who had three huſbands; her ſon, by her ſecond huſband Hugh Tyrell, was her heir. About 1630, one of the Tyrells alienated the eſtate to ſome perſon whoſe name is not known. The next owner was William Petre, Eſq. of Stanford Rivers: he ſold it to Jaſper Kinſman, of Ardern-hall, in Horndon, and with them it remained ſome time.

The manſion-houſe of the manor of Groves ſtands about a mile north of the church, and was part of Alice's property (daughter of Sir Henry Bruyn), who had three huſbands; it came to the Heninghams, her ſecond huſband's family. It then went to the family of Saltonſhall; and from them to John Goodere, of Claybury, by marriage.

Pointz

Pointz is a houſe here, belonging formerly to Admiral Lyttleton.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and is ſituated very pleaſantly. It conſiſts of a north aiſle and body; the chancel has a north chapel. The tower is round, after the Daniſh manner. There was on it formerly a leaden ſpire.

The advowſon of the rectory was at firſt in the Bruyn family; after the diviſion of the manor and eſtates, the preſentation became alternate in their heirs and ſucceſſors. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 1307*l.*

NORTH OKENDON.

NORTH OKENDON lies northward of the other pariſh, it is otherwiſe called Septem Fontium, probably from ſeven ſprings or fountains there, or from ſome owner's name. It belonged to Earl Harold in the reign of the Confeſſor, and to the abbey of St. Peter, at Weſtminſter, at the time of the ſurvey. In the reign of Edward II. John Malegreffe had poſſeſſion of it. The eſtate ſome time after came into the family of Poyntz, of Glouceſterſhire. Catherine, ſole heireſs to the eſtate, daughter of Sir Gabriel Poyntz, brought it in marriage to her huſband Sir John Morice, of Chipping Ongar. Her grandſon, who had aſſumed the name of Poyntz, dying in 1623, held this manor, with other lands. In 1643 the eſtate came by marriage to the family of Lyttleton. It afterwards came to Lyttleton Poyntz Meynell, Eſq.

Stubbers is an ancient ſeat or capital meſſuage in this pariſh, about half a mile weſt from the church, which formerly belonged to the family of Coys, of Welſh extraction. It was afterwards purchaſed of a Worceſterſhire family by Sir William Ruſſell, Knt.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, conſiſts of a body and north aiſle, the length of the church and chancel. The tower, which is embattled, is built of ſtones. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor. The land-tax is 744*l.*

CRANHAM.

CRANHAM was not much known till about the reign of Edward IV.; the name of Okendon was common to the diſtrict, till it was divided into three lordſhips. In the reign of the Confeſſor it belonged to Aluric. The name of Cranham was probably adopted for brevity, as it was formerly called Okendon Epiſcopi. The manor-houſe is ſituated near the church. In 1339 Nicholas de Haughton had it.

In 1442 Sir Lodowic, or Lewis, John, of Weſt Thorndon, who died at that time, held it of the biſhop of London, by the ſervice of thirty ſhillings per annum. He was attainted. Richard III. when duke of Glouceſter, obtained a grant of this manor, a part of the poſſeſſion of Lewis John, attainted. The Mordaunt family afterwards had it with the manor of Weſt Thorndon. They ſoon after ſold the eſtate to Sir William Petre. In 1571, at the time of his death, he poſſeſſed this manor and the advowſon of the church. John, his ſon, afterwards created Lord Petre, died in 1613, and held this eſtate of the biſhop of London, with the advowſon of the church, as of his caſtle of Stortford. In 1635 Francis Petre, Eſq., was lord of the manor, and he diſpoſed of it to Nathan Wright, Eſq., merchant, of London. Sir Nathan Wright's deſcendant died in 1727; his widow was married to Herbert Tryſt, Eſq., high ſheriff of the county in 1737, who enjoyed the eſtate in her right till her death in 1741.

Berdens is a capital meſſuage, or reputed manor in this pariſh, and lies towards Warley Place, about two miles north of the church. Ralph Latham, Eſq., dying in 1556, held this manor. There are here two alms-houſes, given by Nathan Wright.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a wooden turret.

The rectory has been appendant to the manor of Cranham-hall. The parſonage houſe was rebuilt ſome years ſince. The land-tax is 710*l.* 2*s.*

UPMINSTER.

UPMINSTER is a large pariſh, and extends from Rainham on the ſouth to South Weald on the north; Cranham and Warleys lie to the eaſt; and it is divided on the weſt from the liberty of Havering by the rivulet called Ingreburn. It is divided into North and South Upminſter, and derives its name probably from a word which ſignifies a church, and the firſt ſyllable from its ſituation on upper ground. In the reign of the Confeſſor, the lands of this pariſh belonged to Waltham-abbey, Sweyn, Suart, and Ulouin, and, at the time of the ſurvey, were in the ſame abbey, in Walter de Douai, and in Odo biſhop of Bayeux. Walter's poſſeſſion, which indeed was the chief part of the pariſh, is what afterwards received the name of

of Gaines, from a conſiderable family ſurnamed De Engaine. The manſion-houſe ſtands about half a mile ſouth of the church, near the croſs of Gaines. The eſtate did not remain long in the hands of Walter de Douai's family; for, in the reign of king John, it was in the family of William de Courtenay. Till 1318 it continued in the poſſeſſion of his heir, Engaine lord de Blatherwicke, in Northamptonſhire. In Edward III.'s reign it came to Simon de Havering, and afterwards to John de Havering. The manor of Gaines remained in the Havering family. In 1383 Sir William Windſor had the manor, and after his death Sir John Deyncourt obtained a grant of it. The next poſſeſſor to the Deyncourts was Nicholas Wayte, citizen and draper of London. His heirs were of the name of Bendowe and Pyke: they alienated the manor to Ralph Latham, Eſq., citizen and goldſmith of London, of a good family. In 1560 the Lathams alienated the manor to Robert Badley and Ralph Latham, and in 1563 again to William Strangmar, for the uſe of William Latham. In 1587 to Guard D'Ewes, citizen and ſtationer; his ſon alienated the manor to Francis Rowe, Gent. and George Wiſeman, for the uſe of William Latham, Eſq., the elder, for his life, with remainder to his ſon. Thus it returned into the Latham family, and very probably theſe alienations were only by way of truſt. —— Herbert, Eſq., has probably been ſince lord of the manor of Gaines. In 1721 it was ſold to Mr. Graves, of Suſſex, a clergyman, who poſſeſſed it for about ſixty years, and ſold it to —— White, Eſq.

The manor of Upminſter-hall was amongſt the ſeventeen given by Harold to the abbey founded by him at Waltham, called ſince Waltham-hall. Edward the Confeſſor confirmed it to that houſe. The abbey was poſſeſſed of it at the time of the ſurvey. It was probably a hunting ſeat for the abbot: here he had a chapel, and where the garden now is was a cemetery; it is very pleaſantly ſituated, and ſtands about a mile north of the church. Henry VIII., after the diſſolution, granted this eſtate to Thomas Cromwell Earl of Eſſex. Upon his attainder it reverted to the crown, and in 1543, Henry granted it to Ralph Latham, of London, goldſmith; William Strangman had it from the Latham family, and in 1593, Roger James and his heir. In 1599 a court was held here in the name of Thomas Claybourne and his wife; and in 1628 a fine was levied, and the uſes declared to Ralph Latham, Eſq., and in 1646 Ralph, his ſon, mortgaged this eſtate, and ſold it next year for 6640*l.* to Juliana viſcounteſs dowager Camden, who ſettled it on herſelf for life, with remainder to Henry ſecond ſon of Baptiſt Noel, grandſon and heir to Edward

Lord

Lord Camden. It continued with them till 1685, when, by a decree of chancery, it was purchaſed by Captain Andrew Branſell, of Dartmouth, Devon. It continued in that family.

A third manor of this pariſh was that of Uluin in the Confeſſor's reign, and afterwards of the biſhop of Bayeux, at the time of the ſurvey. It is the moſt ſouthern part of the pariſh, adjoining Alveley, and part of the eſtate called Bumpſteads. It probably comprehended many of the lands, now freehold, in South Upminſter. If the whole pariſh of Upminſter were to be divided into ten parts, according to the number of hides in Domeſday-book; about ſix parts and a half would belong to the manor of Gaines; about two to Upminſter-hall; and the remaining part and half to Bumpſteads.

New-place is a nominal manor, and ſtands a little way eaſt of the church, and is ſo called to diſtinguiſh it from Gaines, the ancient reſidence of the lords of this manor. The houſe is now completely down, and nothing remains but a few outhouſes. It was part of the eſtate of Ralph Latham, who died in 1556. His deſcendant's daughter marrying Sir Thomas Skipwith, Bart. of Lincolnſhire, he ſold the place to John Rayley, citizen and draper, of London. Sarah, wife of John Rayley his ſon, he dying without iſſue, next poſſeſſed it, and ſhe married John Major, of London.

Bridge-houſe is another manor in this pariſh, and ſtands near the bridge over the brook, whence it takes its name; it lies partly in this pariſh and partly in that of Hornchurch. John de Reydon, John Cook, and Richard Goddeſton were the oldeſt poſſeſſors on record. It belonged to Ralph Latham and his ſucceſſors.

Sunnings is a capital meſſuage in this pariſh, a mile and more ſouth-eaſt from the church, beyond Gaines. It was formerly the reſidence of the family of Frith. Park-corner is alſo a farm here; and Corbet's-tye a hamlet here, ſo named from an owner and the Saxon word which ſignifies encloſure. In North Upminſter is a mineral water, impregnated with ſalt, ſimilar to that of Brentwood.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Laurence, conſiſts of a body and north aiſle; the chancel has a north chapel, built by Sir John Engaine. In 1638 part of the church and ſteeple were fired by lightning, and defaced, but have been ſince repaired. It has a ſtone tower, and on the top is a ſpire.

The rectory was appendant on the manor of Gaines, till they were ſeparated by Sir John Engaine. The advowſon of it afterwards continued in the Engaine family. Sir Laurence Pabenham had it from his wife Elizabeth, ſiſter of Sir Thomas En-

gaine. Their daughter brought it in marriage to Sir Thomas Aleſbury, and then to her ſecond huſband Sir William Cheyne; it continued in that family till 1513. Sir William Cheyne's daughter brought it in marriage to William Lord Vaux, of Harrowden, who granted away ſome turns, but died poſſeſſed of it in 1595. John Wright, Eſq., had it at the time of his death in 1609; after which it was in the learned Dr. William Hervey, and in Halke, Newman, and Bray, and then belonged to Thomas Bradſhaw, Eſq. Mr. Samuel Bradſhaw, rector, has built a very good parſonage houſe. The chapel above mentioned was built by Sir John Engaine, and thence called Gaine's chapel, and St. Mary, as well as the lane near it, was ſo called becauſe it was dedicated to St. Mary. It was the burial-place of the family of Engaine and of that of Latham. The learned Dr. Derham was rector here from 1689 to 1735: he was an ornament both to this place and to the nation at large; his Phyſico-Theology, Hiſtory of Birds, and various other writings, are well known. The pariſh of Upminſter is rated to the land-tax at 984*l.*: North Upminſter at 692*l.*

WARLEY.

WARLEY conſiſts of two adjoining pariſhes of this name, Great and Little, otherwiſe called Abbeſs and Semeles; from one of theſe Saxon words, the meaning of which is ware or merchandiſe, the other, ſea-weed, or pond, it is derived; but it is difficult to determine from which: the other termination ſignifies land or paſture.

Great Warley has two manors; that of Great Warley, alias Abbeſs Warley, and that of Warley Franks. The manor of Great Warley belonged, both before and after the Conqueſt, to the abbeſs of Barking, which occaſioned its name. The manſion-houſe ſtood behind the church, but has been ſince taken down. The farm which belongs to the eſtate is called Pound-houſe. The court is kept at an alehouſe on Warley-common, which has lately been famous for the encampments which have there been made. This eſtate came after the ſuppreſſion of monaſteries to the crown, when Henry VIII. granted, among others, in 1539, the manor of Great Warley, with its lands, &c. to William Gonſon, Eſq., and his heirs, with the advowſon of the church; notwithſtanding this, in 1541, Edward North was found to have alienated them to Edward Barrett, Eſq.; ſuch was the confuſion of property in thoſe times of reformation: but William Gonſon had it at the time of his death in 1544. In 1600 Benjamin Gonſon died poſſeſſed of it; and his four daughters were

were his coheireſſes, amongſt whom the eſtate was divided. Some of the Evelyn family had it from 1649 to 1655, and then ſold it to John Hart, merchant, of London, of whom it was purchaſed, in 1669, by Rowland Wynne, merchant, of London, and younger brother to Sir George Wynne, of Noſtell Abbey, Yorkſhire. He gave the eſtate to his two nephews, and the ſurvivor died poſſeſſed of the whole, from whom it deſcended to Mark Wynne, Eſq. They are ſprung from the family of that name in Wales.

The manor of Warley Franks has a manſion, which ſtands about a mile weſt of the church. In the Confeſſor's reign, it was held free by Godric; and at the time of the ſurvey, by Sweyn, of Eſſex. His grandſon having forfeited it by his cowardice, it eſcheated to the crown. Henry III. upon his creating Hubert de Bergh earl of Kent, in 1226, granted him, among others, this manor. Soon after it was in Francis de Scoland, father and ſon, from whom it is ſuppoſed to have derived the name of Franks. It continued ſome time in this family. In 1418 Joan wife of Robert Aſhburnham had the manor. John Godſton had it in 1498; after this his grand-daughters poſſeſſed it; then it was divided between Elton, Ellis, and Hollingſhed: it ſoon after came into the hands of Thomas Drywood and Anne his wife, and William Drywood ſold the eſtate to Nicholas Fuller, Eſq., of Gray's-inn, afterwards knighted. His ſon, in 1658, ſold it to Thomas Gundry, Eſq., of Chingford.

Warley-hall, a capital meſſuage, ſtanding eaſt of the church, is no manor. Thomas Wallenger had it of his wife.

Warley-place is an old ſeat, pleaſantly ſituated, about two miles north of the church; it formerly belonged to the abbeſs of Barking, and afterwards to the ancient family of Fleming. Thomas Jackſon, Eſq., afterwards had it; he died in 1727. David Scott, Eſq., having it left him by will, poſſeſſed it in 1747. Cleytey is a farm here.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel, and nearly the ſame breadth. The ſteeple was burned down by lightning ſome years ſince. The rectory was in the gift of the abbeſs of Barking till the diſſolution. After that it was granted to the Gonſon family, in which it continued till about the year 1590, and by ſucceſſive purchaſes came into different hands. It now belongs to St. John's college, Cambridge. The land-tax is 1100*l.* 2*s.*

LITTLE WARLEY.

LITTLE WARLEY pariſh lies eaſt of the other, and is therefore called Eaſt Warley. In records it is called Semeles, and in Latin de Septem Molis and Septem Molar; probably becauſe there were in it ſeven mills. The pariſh anciently belonged to the church of St. Paul, but one Guert was in poſſeſſion of it before the Conqueſt. William the Conqueror gave it to the biſhop of London, becauſe it formerly had belonged to his ſee. It does not appear how or when the biſhops of London parted with it, but they had the advowſon in 1327. There is only one manor in this pariſh. The hall ſtands near the church, and is delightfully ſituated, commanding a fine proſpect over the vale below, but it is old and much decayed. William de Semeles was poſſeſſed of it in Henry III.'s reign; about the ſame time it ſeems to have been in the Burnel family. In 1453 John Eton held the manor and lands of the biſhop of London. Sir John Tyrell alſo held it under the biſhop. In 1641 Sir Denys Strutt held the manor, &c.

Darmelins, or Dame Ellens, is a farm or reputed manor, of about one hundred and forty acres of woodland. In 1686 Denner Bennett, Eſq., the poſſeſſor, ſold it to Miles Corbet: Mr. Groſvenor had it afterwards.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and is of one pace with the chancel. The tower was new built in 1718. Since the year 1382 the rectory has been in the family of Tyrell, of Heron. The land-tax is 574*l.*

CHILDERDICH.

CHILDERDICH lies to the north of both the Warleys. Probably here was an ancient ditch or boundary, from whence the name might be derived. The lands of this pariſh, in the Confeſſor's reign, were divided into three parts, one of which belonged to Herbert, and after that to the queen, another to Aluen, a freeman, and the third to a freeman of the name of Augar. The ſheriff of Surrey held the firſt at the time of the ſurvey, the ſecond was held by Sweyn, and the third by Saſſeline. They were afterwards divided into two manors; Childerdich-hall and Tillingham-hall. The former of theſe ſtands a little way to the ſouth-weſt of the church. This is what belonged to the crown at the ſurvey, and was in the hands of the ſheriff of Surrey. The manor continued in the crown till Henry VIII.'s reign, who granted it to Sir Thomas Seymour, with the other.

Tillingham-

Tillingham-hall ſtands on low ground, about a mile and a quarter ſouth-ſouth-eaſt of the church, and contains a large extent of land, ſome of which lies in the pariſh of South Weald. It had its name probably from a family of De Tillingham, or a pariſh of that name, in the county. In 1376 Sir William Baude, ſenior, held this manor of the king. In 1377 licenſe was granted to William de Humberſtone and others, to give the eſtate to the abbot and convent of Coggeſhall, for daily finding a taper to burn in their abbey church, before the high altar, at the time of high maſs. The manor continued ſome time in the abbey of Coggeſhall, though not quite till the diſſolution in 1538. In 1525 Henry VIII. granted it among many other eſtates to Cardinal Wolſey, for the purpoſe of building and endowing his two colleges. Upon the cardinal's diſgrace, all his lands and wealth coming to the crown, Henry granted the manor of Childerdich, Tillingham, &c. to Sir Thomas Seymour and his heirs. In 1540 he alienated the manors and granges of Childerdich and Tillingham-hall to Sir Richard Riche, who, in 1554, ſettled them on his ſecond ſon Sir Hugh Riche. They afterwards went to the Earl of Warwick; and for many years were in the Cheke family, of Pirgo; for Sir Thomas Cheke married the daughter of Robert Riche Earl of Warwick. In 1707 it came to the youngeſt ſiſter of the Cheke family, Anne Lady Tipping, whoſe youngeſt daughter brought it in marriage to Thomas Lord Archer. There are alms-houſes in the pariſh for two dwellers.

The church is dedicated to All Saints and St. Faith; it is a very neat building, of one pace with the chancel. The ſteeple has a ſpire. In 1494 Robert Hovell and his wife put the advowſon of the church into the hands of the abbot and monks of Coggeſhall, to which they preſented as a rectory till 1370. In 1380 the church was appropriated to that abbey, and a vicarage endowed. But this being done without the king's licenſe, according to the ſtatute of mortmain, the patronage became forfeited to the crown. They however obtained a pardon from Henry VI. for the ſum of one hundred ſhillings, paid to the hanaper, under pretence that it was done through ignorance and neglect of counſel; and they remained poſſeſſed of the advowſon of the vicarage, and of the great tithes, till the diſſolution, when they were granted away with the two manors, and have remained with them ever ſince. The land-tax is 572*l.*

SOUTH

SOUTH WEALD.

SOUTH WEALD is a large pariſh, and occupies the north point of this hundred. The Saxon word weald ſignifies wood, and this place appears to have been one of the firſt inhabited parts of the foreſt of Eſſex. It has the addition of South to diſtinguiſh it from North Weald, near Epping. On the ſouth-weſt ſide of Weald-hall park is a camp, encloſing about ſeven acres; it is ſingle ditched and circular, and is ſuppoſed to have been a Roman ſummer camp.

The chief part of the pariſh belonged, before and at the time of the ſurvey, to Waltham abbey. In the reign of the Confeſſor it belonged to Sprot and others. Theſe lands were afterwards divided into the manors of South Weald, Boſwells, Caldecotts, Brentwood or Coſted-hall, Baads or Dounſels, and Ropers. In this pariſh are the four hamlets of Brentwood, Brook-ſtreet, Haſtingwood, and Thornwood.

The manor of South Weald has a manſion-houſe, called Weald-hall, and is very pleaſantly ſituated, a ſhort way north-weſt of the church. It is one of the ſeventeen lordſhips with which Earl Harold, in 1062, endowed his abbey of Waltham, and it was confirmed by Henry II. and Richard I. From its belonging to the ſame abbey it received the name of Abbot's Weald. It continued in the poſſeſſion of that abbey till 1540, when Henry VIII. granted that manor, with appurtenances and the great tithes, to Sir Bryan Tuke. He had been ſheriff of the county, and was a man of learning. He died in 1545, and was ſucceeded by his ſon; he was ſucceeded by his brother, who, with William Celly, Gent. alienated the eſtate to Sir Richard Riche, Bart. lord chancellor; of him it was purchaſed by Sir Anthony Browne; it remained in this family till 1662, when it was diſpoſed of to Sir William Scroggs; his ſon and heir ſold the eſtate to Eraſmus Smith, alias Heris, of St. John's, Clerkenwell, Middleſex, alderman of London. It continued with the Smiths till 1745, when Hugh Smith, Eſq., who had married Dorothy daughter of the hon. Dacre Lennard Barrett, of Alveley, died, leaving two daughters coheireſſes. It is now the reſidence of Chriſtopher Towers, Eſq. The houſe is a handſome building, ſituated in a large park, containing ſome fine wood.

The manor of Boſwells, alias Boyles, the manſion-houſe of which ſtands about a mile and a half ſouth of the church, on the right hand ſide of the road leading from Brook-ſtreet to Warley, was in the poſſeſſion of one Sochman before the Conqueſt,

and which Robert Gernon held of the king's gift. Subſequently it came into the poſſeſſion of the priory of Blackmore, and was granted in 1540 to Sir Bryan Tuke. His ſon alienated it to Humphrey Frith. John Juſtice, Eſq., had it afterwards, of whom David Papillion, Eſq., purchaſed it.

The manor of Caldecotts has a manſion-houſe, lying north of the London road, near Weald-hall park. Part of the Roman camp is within this eſtate; this is the portion which Sprot had in the reign of the Confeſſor, and Robert Gernon, his tenant, at the time of the ſurvey. The whole or part of this eſtate was given by William or Richard de Montfichet to the abbey of Stratford Langthorne. After the diſſolution, this manor was valued at the rent-aſſize of the tenants, at 6*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*; farm of the manor 53*s.* 4*d.*; perquiſites of court 1*l.* 14*s.* Henry VIII. in 1544, granted it to Thomas Blucke, and other London citizens. Queen Elizabeth granted it, in 1592, to William Tipper and Robert Dawe; and, in 1599, to Anthony Browne, Eſq.; from whom it paſſed to Hugh Smith, Eſq., and his heirs. Langtons, a principal houſe here, ſeems to have belonged to the abbey of Stratford, whence it derived its name of Langthorne.

The manor of Brentwood, otherwiſe Coſt-hall, or Cockſted-hall. This manor contains the chief hamlet in this pariſh. The town of Brentwood, or Burntwood, is about ſeventeen miles from London, on the great road, and is ſituated on a hill, with an agreeable proſpect. It has been lately much improved by additional buildings, as, from its ſhort diſtance from London, it forms an attraction to the citizens. On Thurſdays here is a good market, and two yearly fairs, one on July 18, the other on Oct. 15. The aſſizes were uſually kept here; but from want of accommodation and other inconveniencies, they have been removed to Chelmsford. It is not known whence it derived its name; it was undoubtedly on account of a wood here. The land was given by William de Wochendon to the abbey of St. Oſyth, and confirmed to that houſe by Henry II. In the reign of king Stephen it had a market and fair. It continued in that monaſtery till its diſſolution. Henry VIII. after the ſuppreſſion, granted it to Thomas Lord Cromwell, upon whoſe attainder it came again to the crown; and in 1549 belonged to the lady Anne of Cleves. In 1553 Edward VI. granted this manor, with a fair and market in Brentwood, to Anthony Browne; from his ſucceſſors it came to Hugh Smith, Eſq., and his heirs, lords paramount of all the manors of the pariſh.

The manor of Baads, or Dounſels, lies on the right hand ſide of the ſtreet leading from

from Brentwood to Ongar; the houſe is about two miles north-eaſt of South Weald church. It ſtands partly in this pariſh and partly in that of Shenfield. The earlieſt account of it is in 1483, when Ralph Bawds held the manor of the biſhop of London. Thomas Bradbury, in 1509, held it next. From the Bradbury family it came to that of Crafford. During the civil wars it fell into the hands of John Leech, a Corniſh man, and green grocer of London: he ſold it, ſoon after the Reſtoration, to Thomas Manby, Eſq., of a Lincolnſhire family, and with them it remained. It was about 50*l.* or 60*l.* a year.

The manor of Ropers is now divided into Great Ropers and Little Ropers. The lands are on the left hand ſide of the road going from Brentwood, and extend from Brook-ſtreet towards Great Warley. It is ſo called from a poſſeſſor of it. Henry Roper, gentleman pourſuivant to queen Catherine, of Arragon, in 1614, had it: the place is now called Moat-houſe. In 1517 Conſtance Roper paſſed it to William Ipgrave. Great Ropers was in the poſſeſſion of John How, Eſq., of Stoneden, and then of William Taylor, Eſq. Little Ropers belonged to Henry Hall, Eſq., of Hutton.

The Moat, ſo called becauſe it is ſurrounded with a moat, was formerly named Brook-hall, when in the hands of Wright, who had both the Ropers. It is ſituated in Brook-ſtreet, on the left, in the way to London, and was held of the dutchy of Lancaſter. The eſtate was ſold in 1721 to William Wheatley, broker, in London.

Brook-ſtreet is one of the hamlets in this pariſh, at the bottom of Brentwood-hill, by a brook, about a mile ſouth-weſt of the town, on the London road. On the north ſide of this place was formerly an hoſpital for lepers, dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt, and founded by the Bruyn family, of South Okendon. Some remains of the building are ſtill viſible. Sir Anthony Browne had a grant of this hoſpital. The eſtate is now divided; Mr. Ewing Bayley had lately the ſite of the houſe.

Tillingham-hall is deſcribed under Childerdich; it has ſome of its lands, demeſnes, and copyholds, extending into South Weald, nearly from Bently mill to Doddinghurſt pariſh.

Here are a few alms-houſes, near the church, and a few others, with ſome ſmall benefactions to the pariſh. A grammar-ſchool at Brentwood was founded by Sir Anthony Browne, in 1557. The maſter is to be a prieſt, nominated by the heirs of the Browne family. Two guardians of the lands and poſſeſſions of this ſchool, to be put in and out at the diſcretion of the patron. The body and corporation to be perpetual, and to have a common ſeal. The maſter to keep the eſtate in repair, and

to

to read prayers to his ſcholars every Wedneſday and Friday. The biſhop of London and dean of St. Paul's were made viſitors of the ſchool, by a decree of chancery in 1570. The ſchool-houſe ſtands in Brentwood town. The endowment is the parſonage of Dagenham, a valuable living, worth 500*l.* per annum, and Chigwell Grange, worth 100*l.* per annum.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, ſtands on a hill, whence it commands a delightful proſpect. It is a handſome building, conſiſting of two paces, ſupported in the middle by five pillars, of the Tuſcan order. The chancel is the ſame. At the weſt end is a tower, embattled, of conſiderable height. The tower was built in the beginning of Henry VII.'s reign. The church was given by Earl Harold to his abbey of Waltham. In 1724 the vicarage was endowed with all tithes, both great and ſmall, out of the lordſhip or demeſnes of the abbey and convent of Stratford, in this pariſh. It has continued ever ſince in the gift of the biſhop of London. The late incumbent, Dr. Brydges, was a conſiderable benefactor to this living, by building a handſome vicarage-houſe, of brick, and laying out a pleaſant garden. About the year 1221, a chapel was founded at Brentwood; it was dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr, that is, Thomas à Becket: the abbot and convent of St. Oſyth were to build it; and divine ſervice is kept up for the benefit of the inhabitants, who are become numerous ſince the London road has been made here. The revenue of the chapel is augmented by queen Anne's bounty. It continued in the abbey of St. Oſyth's diſpoſal till the reign of Henry VIII. Upon the diſſolution, Henry granted it to Thomas Lord Cromwell; on his attainder it reverted to the crown, and the king granted it to John Cocke and Anne his wife, to hold in fealty. Anthony Browne had a grant of it in 1553, from whom it deſcended and paſſed as the manor of South Weald. The chapel is of one pace with the chancel. It has a ſmall ſtone tower, with a ſpire. In the chapel was a chantry. The pariſh, with its ſeveral hamlets, is thus rated to the land-tax: South Weald 1303*l.*, Brentwood 1181*l.*, Brook-ſtreet 572*l.*, Thornwood hamlet 595*l.*, Haſtings ward 457*l.* Theſe two laſt are rated with the half hundred of Harlow.

Ongar Hundred.

THIS hundred derived its name from a Saxon word, ſignifying a place, by way of diſtinction, as Ongar was the chief town in it. Becontree hundred bounds it on the ſouth, and Havering liberty; on the eaſt, part of the ſame liberty, and of the hundreds of Chafford, Chelmsford, and Barſtaple; the weſt is bounded by the half hundred of Waltham, and part of that of Harlow; on the north, lies part of this hundred, and of the hundred of Dunmow. It is about fourteen miles long from north to ſouth, in its greateſt extent; and from eaſt to weſt about ſeven miles broad, in its greateſt width.

Henry II. granted it to Richard de Lucy, who alſo had the caſtle of Ongar. Maud, ſiſter of Herbert de Lucy, brought it in marriage to her huſband, John de Rivers. She died in 1243. Her grandſon, John de Rivers, in 1339, granted it to Sir John de Sutton. He, in 1348, enfeoffed Ralph Lord Stafford and his heirs. It continued in his poſterity till 1521, when, upon the attainder of Edward, it reverted to the crown. Henry VIII. granted it to Lord Rich, who died ſeiſed of it in 1566. It continued for many years in his poſterity, and being allotted to Sir Henry St. John, he ſold it to Philip Traherne, Gent. of whom it was purchaſed by Sir Eliab Harvey, and has remained ſince that time in the family of Harvey, of Chigwell.

The deanery and hundred of Ongar is in the archdeaconry of Eſſex.

There are twenty-ſix pariſhes in the hundred of Ongar: Chipping Ongar, High Ongar, Norton Mandeville, Fifield, Roding Beauchamp, Roding Abbeſs, Laver High, Laver Magdalen, Laver Little, Moreton, Shelly, Bobbingworth, North Weald, Greenſted, Stamford Rivers, Theydon Mount, Theydon Gernon, Theydon Bois, Loughton, Chigwell, Lambourn, Stapleford Tany, Stapleford Abbots, Naveſtock, Kelvedon Hatch, Stondon.

The pariſhes of Loughton, Lambourn, and Chigwell, are within the foreſt: thoſe of Theydon Bois and Naveſtock, partly in and partly out; and all the others are out of the foreſt.

There is a ſingular cuſtom in this hundred, called the Wardſtaffe, which yearly takes place, and is worthy the attention of the curious.

ONGAR.

THE town of Ongar has given name to the hundred; it is diſtinguiſhed from another of the ſame name by the addition of Chipping, from the Saxon word which means buying; as it has long been a market town. The market is now held on Saturdays, though formerly on Tueſdays. It has a fair on the 30th of September. It is likewiſe called Ongar ad Caſtrum, from a caſtle here, built by Richard de Lucy. It ſtands about twenty-one miles diſtance from London. The lordſhip belonged to Ailid in Edward the Confeſſor's reign, and to a freeman; and at the time of the ſurvey, Euſtace Earl of Boulogne, and Ralph Baignard, had the part of the freeman. From the Earl of Boulogne it deſcended to Stephen king of England, by his marriage with Maud. His ſon gave it to Richard de Lucy lord of Diſſe, in Norfolk. He erected it into a lordſhip, and built a caſtle here; it was ſituated on the top of a high artificial hill, round, and ſurrounded with a moat, which, with ſeveral others, protected the fortifications, and which are ſtill to be ſeen. William Morice, the proprietor in queen Elizabeth's reign, took the caſtle down, as it was rapidly falling into decay, and erected a brick building in its place. This was alſo demoliſhed by Edward Alexander, Eſq., who, in 1744, erected a large houſe inſtead of it. From the Lucys it paſſed to Richard de Rivers, and from him to Sir John de Sutton, who diſpoſed of it to Ralph Lord Stafford. In 1541 Henry VIII. granted this manor to George Harper and his heirs, and in 1543 Harper alienated it to William Morice, Eſq. The eſtate came by marriage to Sir Fulk Greville and William Duncombe, Eſq., and they ſold it to Sir Thomas Whitmore, whoſe ſon diſpoſed of it to Thomas Goldſburgh, of Ongar, Gent. In 1717 the Goldſburghs ſold the eſtate to Edward Alexander, Eſq., of High Ongar. He marrying Levina, daughter of Sir Levinus Bennett, of Cambridgeſhire, had by her a ſon, who took the name of Bennett. It continued in the Bennett family for a long time.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Martin, is of one pace with the chancel: it has a ſpire.

The rectory has been always appendant to the manor. The value of it is ſmall. It is augmented with queen Anne's bounty, and other ſmall benefactions. The land-tax is 1349*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

HIGH ONGAR.

HIGH ONGAR has frequently been called Old Ongar; its extent is greater than that of Chipping Ongar, but its lords were inferior. In the reign of the Confeſſor, Leuric poſſeſſed part of this pariſh, with John ſon of Waleram. Another part, both before and after the Conqueſt, belonged to Waltham abbey. That which belonged to John of Waleram, was divided into the manor of Aſtelyns, Ongar-park, Foliots-hall, the manor of Chevres, that of Aſhe-hall, and that of Wetherſpane.

The manor of High Ongar comprehended a great part of this pariſh; it was chiefly of woodland.

The manor of Aſtelyns, alias Gapps, a hamlet in the pariſh, was taken out of the capital manor here; the lands lie in North Weald and Bobbingworth. It has now neither courts nor quit-rents. What is now a farm-houſe here was formerly a ſeat, with a moat round about it. It had anciently a park and ſome hundred acres. The lodge is in Bobbingworth. Thomas Duke of Norfolk is ſuppoſed to have here concealed himſelf, when accuſed of treaſon in abetting Mary queen of Scots. Monceaux was the next poſſeſſor of it after John de Waleram, as in the other manors. John Writyll had it after him, and William Ayliffe, Eſq., in 1517. Dr. Harvey, of the college of phyſicians, purchaſed it, and ſettled it, in 1672, on that college, the members of which are the preſent poſſeſſors. The eſtate contains 337 acres.

Foliots-hall manor, now Foreſt-hall manſion, ſtands about three quarters of a mile north of the church. The eſtate formerly belonged to the dean and chapter of St. Paul. In 1544, Henry VIII. having obtained poſſeſſion of it, granted it to William Riggs and Leonard Brown. They alienated it to Sir Richard Riche, who ſold it in 1562 to Richard Stane, in whom it remained.

The manor of Chevers probably took its name from Sir William Chevres, who poſſeſſed it in the reign of Edward III. The houſe is ſituated about a mile eaſtward of the church, and ſtands by the ſide of a hill. In 1484 John Stalbroke had it of the Duke of Bedford. In 1524 William Pawne, Eſq., poſſeſſed it, and afterwards it came by marriage to William Chatterton. John Auſtin had the eſtate in 1633, and very ſoon after Philip Holman came into it. Then it proceeded into the family of William Stane, Eſq., who with it had the manor of Newarks, which lies partly in this pariſh and partly in Norton, where there is the manor-houſe.

The manor of Wetherſpane is very little known till 1614, when Alexander Holman had it, and from him it came to the Baker family.

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The manor of Aſhe-hall has a manſion, which ſtands about a quarter of a mile eaſt of the church, by the ſide of a brook. John de Frenles, ſon and heir of Sir William, held this manor of Hugh Earl of Stafford; this was in 1378. Little is known of it afterwards till the reign of James I.; then Sir Thomas Mildmay, Knt. of Springfield Barnes, held it, with other lands in Ongar, &c. Mr. Thomas Wallenger had it ſome time after, and then it became the property of Thomas Campion, Eſq., of Croydon.

The manor of Ongar-park is not contiguous to the reſt of the pariſh, but is divided from it by Bobbingworth and Greenſted; from which it may be ſuppoſed that theſe two villages were erected from out of the woods of Ongar, before the Conqueſt. After Monceaux, the oldeſt poſſeſſor of this manor, of whom any mention is made, is Andrew de Welden, who died in 1352. Thomas, his ſon, with Margaret his wife, jointly held it, with remainder to Thomas Bataille, ſon of his ſiſter. He died 1439. From this family it became the poſſeſſion of Humphrey Shelton, Eſq., who died in 1605. William Minſhull afterwards enjoyed it, and ſold it to Sir Thomas Webſter, Bart., of Copped-hall, and he diſpoſed of it to Aaron Frank.

The manor of Paſſelowe, or Paſſefield, was one of the ſeventeen lordſhips given by Earl Harold to his abbey of Waltham. That abbey kept poſſeſſion of it till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. Henry VIII., in 1541, granted it to George Harper, who alienated it to Sir Richard Riche; it deſcended to his poſterity the Earls of Warwick; it came to the Earl of Mancheſter on the partition of this Earl's eſtates. Sir Joſiah Child purchaſed it, from whom it deſcended to Earl Tylney, and in this family it ſtill remains. The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is of one pace with the chancel, and has a ſpire. This rectory, which is very valuable, is a manor, conſiſting of demeſnes, and has ſeveral copyholds. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 1214*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

NORTON MANDEVILLE.

THE manor of Norton moſt probably had its name from its northern ſituation with regard to Ongar. It derived the name of Mandeville from Ralph Mandeville, who poſſeſſed the manor formerly.

This pariſh, in the reign of the Confeſſor, was divided into two different parts; one

one belonged to a female of the name of Godid, who preſented it to St. Paul's church in London. The other part belonged to Gotil; and when the ſurvey was made, was held by Hamo Dapifer, and his tenant. In 1181 it contained one hundred acres of arable, and a ſmall portion of other land. The dean and canons of St. Paul let this eſtate in 1190 to farm. In 1480 this manor, and that of Cannes in North Weald, belonged to Thomas Danvers, Eſq., and were that year both purchaſed by Merton College, Oxford, for the ſum of 493*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The manor of Newarks Norton was moſt probably named from ſome new building. The houſe ſtands about a mile eaſt of the church. The eſtate lies part in Norton and part in High Ongar. In Henry VIII.'s reign it paſſed, in 1542, to John Williams and Anthony Stringer, who alienated it in the ſame year to Sir Richard Riche. There is a ſurmiſe that the eſtate was once in the church of Weſtminſter. In 1566 John Waylet held the manor. William Stane, Eſq., of High Ongar, had it afterwards.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a ſmall ſpire. Here is neither rectory nor vicarage; a curate is appointed by the impropriator, and licenſed by the ordinary. The curacy was augmented in 1743. The rectory and great tithes were given by Galiena de Dammartin to the nunnery of St. Leonard's, at Bromley, in Middleſex. After the ſuppreſſion, Henry VIII. granted this rectory, in 1540, to Sir Ralph Sadler; who conveyed it to William Pawne, Eſq. He died in May 1570; from his family it deſcended to Bridget Chatterton. Edward Elliot had it at the time of his deceaſe, in 1595. It, after that, ſome time, belonged to Mr. Nicholas, but has ſince been ſold. The land-tax is 326*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

FIFIELD.

FIFIELD is to the north of both the Ongars, and of Norton; its name is derived from a Saxon word, ſignifying a quantity of land, in the Saxons' manner of reckoning. In the Confeſſor's reign, the lands in this pariſh belonged to Brictman, Aleuin, Leuric, and Aleſtan; and, at the time of the ſurvey, to Euſtace Earl of Boulogne, and John, ſon of John of Waleram. They were afterwards divided into the manor of Fifield, that of Herons, and that of Lampetts, which laſt is partly in Moreton pariſh. The Earl of Boulogne's was the paramount manor, but that of Waleram had the largeſt demeſnes.

Fifield-

Fifield-hall manor-houſe ſtands on the north ſide of the church. It was ſoon after the reign of Henry II. in the family of De Tani, lords of Stapleford. Nicholas de Beauchamp had the eſtate from Gilbert de Tani in 1220, and preſented to the living in 1231. John de Briançon was poſſeſſed of it in 1315. John Hotham, of Bondeby, held it in 1351, with his wife; Henry Lord Scrope, of Maſham, in 1392, held the manor with the advowſon of the church. Thomas, laſt Lord Scrope, dying without iſſue, his three ſiſters became coheireſſes. In 1531 Sir Thomas Strangeways, who married Alice, one of the ſiſters, held this manor; Marmaduke Wyvill, Eſq., married to Agnes, ſiſter and coheir of John ſon and heir of Sir Ralph Fitz-Randolph, had another ſhare. In 1536 Marmaduke Wyvill, Eſq., and Agnes his wife, and their ſon, ſold their ſhare of the manor and advowſon to Sir Richard Riche. The eſtate remained in the hands of the Earl of Warwick, who purchaſed the reſt; but upon the death of Charles, laſt earl of this family, it came to the female heirs. It was purchaſed by Sir Joſiah Child, of the Earls of Manchester, and his grandſon, the Earl Tylney, poſſeſſed it.

The manor of Herons has a manſion-houſe, ſtanding near a mile ſouth of the church. The manor, which was taken from the capital one of Fifield-hall, was given to Lees priory, in this county; but when and by whom is not known. Part of Brett's tenements, as mentioned above, were held of the prior of Lees, as of this manor. After the ſuppreſſion, Henry VIII., in 1536, granted this manor, with the priory's and other poſſeſſions, to Sir Richard Riche. He died poſſeſſed of it in 1566. It continued for many years in his noble deſcendants. Thomas Brand, Eſq., of Pickerells, in this pariſh, lately had it, and it deſcended to his ſon.

The manor of Lampetts, of which the manſion-houſe ſtands about three quarters of a mile weſt-north-weſt from the church, either derived its name, or gave it to Thomas Lampett, an ancient proprietor, about Henry IV.'s reign. It belonged to the Writell family, of the neighbouring pariſh of Bobbingworth. In 1473 Walter Writell, Eſq., died in poſſeſſion of it. In 1750 John Collins, Eſq., reſided here, and died about that period. Whitney-green is about half a mile eaſt of the church. A good manſion-houſe ſtands on it; ſome time the ſeat of George Pochin, Eſq., ſheriff of the county in 1700.

Dr. Walker, rector of this church, gave 10*l.* a year for teaching poor children to read and write. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and conſiſts of a body, and two aiſles ſupported by pillars, arched over; but the chancel is of one pace: in

the middle ſtood the tower, after the plan of a cathedral. It fell down ſome years ſince. In the ſouth wall are three arches, one above another, ſupported by two columns of grey marble, of the Tuſcan order; and the windows are curiouſly wrought in ſtone-work. The tithes of the pariſh were given, in 1094, to the monaſtery of Bermondſey, by Roger de Tany, one of the knights of John Fitz-Waleram, with his lord's conſent. In 1107 theſe tithes were confirmed to them, and with them the church of Fifield. Notwithſtanding, before the year 1331, this church was again taken from them. This rectory has been ever ſince appendant to the manor of Fifield-hall, and is now in the Tylney family. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 1372*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

RODING BEAUCHAMP.

RODING BEAUCHAMP was undoubtedly ſo called from William Beauchamp, of Bedford, who held it in 1262. In the Confeſſor's reign Leucin and Eccius enjoyed this pariſh; at the time of the ſurvey Alan Earl of Bretagne poſſeſſed it; and under him Alberic de Vere. There are two pariſhes of this name in Ongar hundred, beſides ſix others in the hundred of Dunmow.

The manor-houſe of Long Barnes ſtands in a bottom, about a mile north of the church. About the year 1328 Henry Biddock held this eſtate, under the family of Vere. Robert de Vere, Duke of Ireland, loſt it upon his attainder in 1387, and it was forfeited to the king. Richard Weald, who died in 1391, held the manor, with the advowſon of the church, of Richard II. by reaſon of the ſaid forfeiture. Elizabeth, married to Lewis Mews, Eſq., was his daughter and next heir, whoſe ſon, in 1463, preſented to this living. It was next in the Gate family. Sir Geoffrey Gate, who died in 1476, held the manor of Richard Duke of Glouceſter, by ſervice of a quarter of a knight's fee. King Philip and queen Mary, in 1558, granted all Sir John Gate's eſtates, upon his forfeiture of them, from his adherence to Lady Jane Grey, to Richard Weſton and Margaret his wife. In 1605 Sir Richard Courtman recovered this eſtate from Sir Richard Weſton, Knt., a deſcendant of Richard Weſton's, by writ of entry. In 1635 it belonged to Richard Stokes; and afterwards to Lord North; then to —— Heneage, Eſq., of Hatton Garden, and finally to Mrs. Elizabeth Heneage.

The manor of Frayes, the houſe of which is the chief in the pariſh, is not far diſtant

diſtant from Long Barnes. The families of Gate and Weſton were poſſeſſed of it a conſiderable time, as well as of the other. Mr. John Miller ſold it to Mr. John Pochin, of London, and from him it came to his ſon, and then to his grandſon. There is no court baron kept within the pariſh. Bird's Green is a hamlet, part in this pariſh and part in that of Willinge-hall Dow. The church is dedicated to St. Botolph, and is of one pace with the chancel. The rectory was originally appendant on the manor of Barnes, but has paſſed through various hands. The land-tax is 511*l.*

RODING ABBESS.

RODING ABBESS was ſo called, becauſe a manor in it, and the advowſon of the church, belonged to the abbeſs of Barking. Before the Conqueſt, Leunel had another manor here, which at the time of the ſurvey was held by Geoffrey de Mandeville. In the pariſh are three manors, Abbeſs-hall, Rookwood-hall, and the manor of Berwick Barnes, or Berners.

Abbeſs-hall ſtands behind the church. The manor continued in the abbey of Barking till the ſuppreſſion. In 1554 Henry VIII. ſold the manor of Abbeſs-hall and others, to Robert Chertſey and others. Next year Robert Chertſey alienated the premiſes and a wood to Robert Meredith, who ſold them immediately to Robert Long. He, in 1549, conveyed the manor, with many others, to William Glaſſcock, Gent., who died in 1579, in poſſeſſion of this eſtate. Tipper and Dawe procured a grant of it in 1592, but queen Elizabeth, in 1599, granted it again from them to Richard Glaſſcock. He immediately ſold it to Gamaliel Capel, Eſq., poſſeſſor of Rookwood-hall, adjoining. In 1720 his deſcendant ſold the eſtate to John Howland, Eſq., of Streatham, from whom it came to his daughter, and then to her ſon John Duke of Bedford. In 1739 his grace ſold it to Stephen Skinner, Eſq., of Walthamſtow.

Rookwood-hall is about a mile weſt from the church, and took its name from an ancient owner. At the ſurvey this part belonged to Geoffrey de Mandeville, who had probably taken it from the abbey of Barking. But he that held it was only a tenant of an anceſtor of Geoffrey; and they could not diſpoſe of the land but to the abbey. Till the year 1250, we have no account of the ſubſequent owners, when John Fitz-Richard held it; Richard Fitz-William, and Richard ſon of William de Roynges, in 1268. The lords paramount were the Earls of Oxford. It was next

in a branch of the Browne family. Two daughters of that name, coheireſſes, one married to Sir Nicholas Waldegrave, and the other, firſt to Edward Wyatt, Eſq., of Ickham, and afterwards to Gamaliel Capel, Eſq., divided the eſtate between them. Sir Gamaliel Capel, at the time of his death, in 1613, held a moiety of this manor of Rookwood-hall, and a moiety of Rookwood-park, in this pariſh, of the Earl of Oxford. He and his poſterity reſided here. Gamaliel Capel, who died in 1720, ſold this eſtate to John Howland, Eſq., of Streatham, and from him it came to his daughter the Ducheſs of Bedford: her ſon, John Duke of Bedford, in 1739, ſold it, with Abbeſs-hall, to Stephen Skinner, Eſq. But the manor, and ſome of the demeſnes, had before been ſold to Mr. Hazard, of Harton. He mortgaged them to Mr. Jackſon, whoſe widow ſold them to Mrs. Clark.

Berwick Berners is a hamlet in the pariſh, but they chooſe a conſtable of their own; the houſe is above a mile north-eaſt of the church. It anciently belonged to the noble family of Berners, from whence it took its additional name. Ralph Berners, in 1297, held the manor. Sir John Berners, in 1475, ſold it to Sir William Capel. It was, after having continued in the Capels many years, ſold to Sir Robert Abdy, Bart., who diſpoſed of it to Thomas Brand, Eſq., of Fifield.

The church is dedicated to St. Edmund, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a ſmall wooden turret, with a ſpire. The rectory appears to have been appendant to the manor of Abbeſs-hall, and was in the gift of Barking abbey till the diſſolution. After which it was held by Sir Ralph Fane in 1550, and by John Gate, Eſq., in 1552. William Glaſſcock had it in 1579: from him it came to his ſon, and then to the Capel family; from whom it paſſed through ſeveral hands. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 438*l.* 1*s.*, and Berwick Berners hamlet at 276*l.*

LAVER.

LAVER is a general name for three contiguous pariſhes here, diſtinguiſhed from each other by the names of High, Magdalen, and Little.

High Laver is otherwiſe ſtyled in records Great Laver, and King's Laver. In the Confeſſor's reign it belonged to Aluuin, a freeman, and Brictmar. At the time of the ſurvey it belonged to Euſtace de Boulogne. There are two manors in the pariſh; that of High Laver and Oats, or Otes.

The manor of High Laver has a manſion-houſe, which ſtands behind the church.

The

The manor having deſcended to Euſtace's grand-daughter Maud, queen of king Stephen, remained in the crown till Henry II.'s reign; who gave it to William Fitz-Aucher. The abbeſs of St. Sulpitius, in Berry, claimed this manor, as aſſigned to her by Richard ſon of Henry Fitz-Aucher. She founded her claim upon a grant of William Earl of Boulogne, ſon of king Stephen, who ſhe pretended had given it to her church. At length, in 1237, it was agreed between the abbeſs at that time and Richard ſon of Henry Fitz-Aucher, that he ſhould enjoy this manor and appurtenances by the ſervice of a fourth part of a knight's fee, and pay the abbeſs and her ſucceſſors 10*l.* per annum. This was ſettled by fine. Joan afterwards, another abbeſs, granted this 10*l.* rent to Waltham abbey, which Stephen, ſon of Richard the ſon of Henry, was to pay; and from that time the Auchers held of the abbey of Waltham. It was for ſome years in the noble family of Ferrars, of Groby, and in Richard Prior, Eſq., in 1438 and 1452. Walter Writell, Eſq., of the neighbouring pariſh of Bobbingworth, at the time of his death, in 1475, held this manor of High Laver, with the advowſon. He poſſeſſed it ſome years. Sir Thomas Walſingham, who married the daughter of Walter Writell, and died in 1583, held the manor. Arthur Stanlake had it after this family. In the laſt century it came to two heireſſes. Mary, daughter of Richard Matthews, citizen of London, brought one moiety in marriage to her huſband Samuel Beachcroft, Eſq. The other moiety was enjoyed between Lewis Scawen, Eſq., and Mr. Richard Merry, merchant, of London, who married the daughter of Abraham Foſter, Eſq., of Eltham, in Kent, who had the other coheireſs for his wife.

The manor of Otes, according to tradition, took its name from John Otes, who, with others, held the manor of Little Laver of the Lord Scales, in the time of Edward II. The manor-houſe ſtands about a mile and a half north of the church. The eſtate ſeems to have been divided about the year 1486, or before, between Sir John Suliard and John Pickenham, Eſq. Sir John Suliard, one of the juſtices of the King's Bench, who died in 1487, held a moiety of the manor of Otes, in High Laver, of Edward Duke of Buckingham, of his manor of Chipping Ongar. Robert Garneys, Eſq., couſin of Sir William Suliard, who died in 1539, ſucceeded to it next, and Euſtace Suliard again after him, in 1546, held a moiety of the manor. About 1600 it was purchaſed by Sir William Maſham. In 1499 George Pickenham, Eſq., held a moiety of the manor of the Earl of Oxford. The eſtate was alſo further ſubdivided. The celebrated Locke ſpent much of his time here during the

latter part of his life; as appears from the dates of his letters; where he was treated with the greateſt civility by Sir Francis Maſham and his lady. He died here in 1704, and was buried in the ſouth ſide of the churchyard, under a black marble ſtone, encloſed with ſtrong iron rails; and on the wall of the church above is an epitaph, which is printed in his works.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is of one pace with the chancel. The ſteeple is covered with a lofty ſhingled ſpire. The rectory was a long time appendant on the manor of High Laver. It has ſince paſſed by purchaſe into ſeveral different families. The land-tax is 895*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*

MAGDALEN LAVER.

MAGDALEN LAVER is ſo named from the dedication of the church to St. Mary Magdalen. In the time of the Saxons it belonged to Sexi; and at the time of the ſurvey to Ralph de Todeni, and his undertenant Roger. There is but one manor; and the manſion-houſe ſtands near the church. Robert de Burnaville, and John de Angerville, John de Montpyncon and Arabella his wife, were the earlieſt poſſeſſors, in the reign of Henry III.: the two firſt were enfeoffed by Jane their grandmother. In 1320 a fine paſſed between Humphrey de Waldene, plaintiff, and John ſon of Robert de Burnaud, for this manor and the advowſon of the church. And Humphrey, in 1331, at the time of his death, held them of Sir Hugh de Audele, and Margaret his wife, daughter and coheireſs of Gilbert Earl of Clare. Andrew, ſon of his brother Roger, was his heir, and was ſucceeded, having no iſſue, by Thomas Bataile, ſon of his ſiſter Alice; who, dying in 1439, left John his ſon and heir; Sir Thomas Cook had it next, and his family; but in the mean time it was poſſeſſed by ſome of the families of Ayloffe and Barrington; it reverted however to the Cook family till 1506. It was next in the family of Aylett. John Aylett, Eſq., of White Roding, in 1664, was a great ſufferer for king Charles I.: he ſpent 700*l.* per annum in that king's ſervice; raiſed a troop of horſe at his own expence, and was in many engagements during the war. He was one of the commanders at the ſiege of Colcheſter, and was ſentenced to be ſhot, but eſcaped in a female diſguiſe. He was retaken, however, and purchaſed his life of the parliament for 460*l.*; and had a pardon granted to him. He received a commiſſion afterwards from Charles II. to ſurpriſe Chepſtow caſtle, in Monmouthſhire, and to be governor of it; there

he was betrayed and made priſoner, till the Reſtoration ſet him at liberty. He probably took up his reſidence at Roding, within view of his loſt eſtate.

In 1662 John Throckmorton, Eſq., preſented to the rectory, from whence it may be concluded that he poſſeſſed the manor. The eſtate was purchaſed of one of the Throckmortons by William Cole, Eſq., ſheriff of Eſſex in 1716.

The church is of one pace of equal breadth with the chancel. The rectory was always appendant to the manor. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 749*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

LITTLE LAVER.

LITTLE LAVER, in the time of the Saxons, and at the Conqueſt, was comprehended under one of the two other manors; here are two manors, Little Laver-hall and the manor of Enefield, or Enville.

The manor-houſe, Little Laver-hall, ſtands near a mile from the church. About the year 1200, Euſtace de Lagefare paſſed this eſtate, by fine, to Ralph de Rouceſter: Ralph had iſſue William, Peter, and Alice; upon the death of William, in the reign of Henry III., Peter inherited; and, he having no iſſue, it came to Alice, who carried it to her huſband Robert de Scales: he died in 1324. The Bourchier family held it under the Lords Scales. Anne, ſole heireſs and daughter of Henry Bourchier, laſt Earl of Eſſex of this family, brought it in marriage to her huſband, William Lord Parre; and he, in 1542, alienated this, otherwiſe called Bourchier's Hall, to Sir Richard Riche; of whom it was purchaſed by John Collyn, or Collen, of Roding Beauchamp: it continued in this family for many years, and was lately in Matthew Bluck, Eſq., of Hunſdon, Hertfordſhire, who purchaſed it of Collyn. It was ſold by a decree in Chancery to Lord Marſham.

The manor of Enefield, or Enville, appears to have been parted off from that of Laver-hall, about the time of Edward II.; for William de Enefield, who died in 1361, held lands here, and from him it derived its name. Ralph Tyle ſoon after had it in right of his wife. It was long in the family of Collins, of Roding Beauchamp, and purchaſed of one of their heirs by Mr. John Auſtry, who ſettled it on his grandſon Mr. John Evans, of Wood Street, London.

The church, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is ſmall, of one pace and of the ſame width with the chancel; the belfry ſtands in the middle of the church, with

with a ſhingled ſpire. The advowſon of this rectory was in the crown, from the year 1313 to 1532. Silveſter de Evendon put in a claim for it, but could not prove it. Henry VIII. granted it, in 1540, to John Coyes and his heirs; afterwards to Sir Richard Riche; from him it came to the Collyn family; and then to Lord Marſham. The land-tax is 485*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

MORETON.

MORETON was ſo called from two Saxon words, ſignifying a hill, or riſing ground; and town, village, or farm. A brook runs between this place and Lavers, which falls into the Roding at Chipping Ongar. In the Confeſſor's reign the pariſh belonged to Sexi, and one freeman; at the time of the ſurvey it was held by William Scobies. The next poſſeſſors upon record after him were the family De Abrincis, or D'Avranches, lords of Folkeſtone, in Kent. William de Avranches held it about the reign of king John, of his barony. He died about 1230, leaving Maud a great heireſs. She was married to Hamo de Crevecœur, lord of Ledes, in Kent, deſcended from Hugh Dapifer. He died in 1262, and his grandſon in 1296: the eſtate was then divided between four daughters, heireſſes. The manor was held of the king in capite, by the ſerjeantry of finding one man with a horſe, of the price of ten ſhillings, and four horſe-ſhoes, a leather ſack, and one iron faſtening, whenever the king ſhould happen to go into Wales; and to be at his own charge for forty days. From the partition of this eſtate aroſe the manors of Nether-hall, and Over-hall; and this ſerjeantry was performed by the owners of both.

Nether-hall, or Bourchier's-hall, has a manſion which ſtands near the ſouth-eaſt corner of the churchyard: the moiety came by marriage to the noble family of Bourchier. Robert Bourchier, who died in 1349, held it jointly with his ſon. Elizabeth Bourchier brought it in marriage to her two huſbands, Sir Hugh Stafford, and Sir Lewis Robeſſart: but having no iſſue, it deſcended to Henry Bourchier Earl of Eu and Eſſex, who died in 1483. William Lord Parre, of Eſſex, by licence, in 1542, ſold it to Richard Lord Riche. It continued in this family till it was purchaſed by Robert Bourne, Eſq., of Blake-hall, in Bobbingworth; his daughter was married to Lord Digby: ſhe dying without iſſue, Mr. Bourne ſettled the reverſion. It belonged ſome time ago to Ambroſe Page, one of the South Sea Directors;

Directors; and it being ſold by the Company, in 1724, was purchaſed for the ſum of 2505*l.* by William Cole, Eſq., from whom it paſſed to his two nephews.

The manor of Upper-hall, Over-hall, or Lady-hall, was one of the moieties into which the manor of Moreton was divided. The manſion-houſe is ſituated in the fields, a ſhort way ſouth-eaſt of Nether-hall. It ſeems to have derived the name from Juliana, daughter and heireſs of John de Sandwich, by Agnes eldeſt daughter of Hamo de Crevecœur. She was married to John de Seagrave, called Le Uncle, becauſe he was uncle to John Lord Seagrave. This moiety he held by petit ſerjeantry. He died in 1343. Elizabeth, daughter of John Lord Seagrave, brought it in marriage to Thomas de Mowbray Duke of Norfolk: he died poſſeſſed of it in 1400. From the Mowbrays it came to the Howards. In 1538 Edmund Lord Howard alienated it to Thomas Duke of Norfolk. It next, as well as the other, belonged to Sir Richard Riche, and his ſon the Earl of Warwick: of ſome of their heirs it was purchaſed by Dr. Joſias Woodward, after whoſe widow's and ſon's deceaſe it came to Lewin Cholmondeley, a brewer, in Southwark, and then to his ſon. About 1336 John de Lenham, alias de Burndiſh, appears to have had a part of it; which his daughter brought to her huſband John Gifford, of Bures; of Robert de Sandwich John Spencer held lands here, in 1356: as did Richard Edwards, John Scott, and other tenants. A farm called Stacies, and lands named Croſs Lees, belonged lately to the Elford family. Here are ſome charities given to the pariſh, though ſmall.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel. The tower, of brick, has a ſpire and five bells. It was given by William Scobies to the monaſtery of St. Stephen, at Caen, in Normandy, founded by the Conqueror; with the land and tithe belonging. Henry I. confirmed the grant, and a vicarage was ordained. Edward III. ſeized it as a priory alien, and parliament afterwards granted it to Henry V. Henry VI. endowing his college of Eton, ſettled on it a penſion of eighteen marks from the vicarage of Moreton. It continued a vicarage till 1532, when Henry VIII. preſented to the living as a rectory, and as ſuch it has continued. He firſt granted the church and advowſon to the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and afterwards to Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk; who, in 1538, by licence, ſold it to Lord Riche, in whoſe family it continued, till it was purchaſed by St. John's college, Cambridge. The land-tax is rated at 843*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

SHELLEY.

SHELLEY.

SHELLEY derived its name from two Saxon words, which ſignify a hedge-hog and pleaſant paſture. This ſmall pariſh lies between Moreton and the Ongars, and contains only one manor. The manor-houſe of Shelley-hall ſtands near the church. Leuidai, in the Saxons' time, poſſeſſed this pariſh; which, at the time of the ſurvey, belonged to Geoffrey de Mandeville. The next owner on record was Johanna, wife of Waleram de Munceus: her heirs, on her deceaſe, in 1278, were Sir William de Cloyle, and Aveline wife of Roger de Lees. Aveline brought it into the family of Lees or Leighs, in which it continued till the reign of Henry VIII. Giles Leigh, Eſq., in 1538, left two daughters coheireſſes, Margaret and Agnes, married to two brothers, John and Chriſtopher Alleyn; of them it was purchaſed by Sir Richard Riche. Robert Lord Riche ſold it to John Green; it continued in this family till 1699, when it came to his two daughters, coheireſſes. Sarah married firſt to Bernard Cotterell, ſilkman, of London, and afterwards to John Baker, Gent. of Blackmore. Mary, the other daughter, was wife of the Rev. Andrew Trebeck, late rector of St. George's, Hanover Square.

Burniſh-hall is a capital meſſuage in this pariſh, about half a mile north of the church; the lands of which extend partly into the pariſh of Moreton. It ſeems to be what is mentioned under the name Brundiſhe; it was ſo called from a family of that name. Sir Richard Riche died poſſeſſed of it in 1566, and it continued ſome years in his deſcendants, the Earls of Warwick. It belonged ſome years ſince to John Lingard, Eſq., common ſerjeant of the city of London; and upon his deceaſe it came among his daughters and heirs.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is of one pace with the chancel. It has a ſhingled ſpire. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor. The land-tax is 444*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

BOBBINGWORTH.

BOBBINGWORTH lies to the weſt of Shelley, and ſeems to have been ſo called from an ancient owner, named Bobbing, and a farm or hall. In the Confeſſor's reign two freemen poſſeſſed the pariſh; at the time of the ſurvey it was held by Ralph, brother of Ilger. There are two manors in it, Bobbingworth hall and Blake-hall.

Bobbingworth-

Bobbingworth-hall ſtands a ſhort way ſouth-weſt of the church. The next owner of the eſtate was after Ralph, Henry Spigurnell, who died in 1328. He held the manor and advowſon of the church of William Bohun by ſervice of half a knight's fee. In 1339 Sir Thomas Spigurnell granted it to Robert de Hakeney, citizen of London, and his wife Catharine, and their heirs. This manor was purchaſed in 1403 by Sir John Aſheles; and in 1423 William Aſheles of Thaxted ſold it to John de Vere Earl of Oxford, Sir Reginald Weſt, Nicholas Thorley, Richard Wentworth, and Richard Ardern. They conveyed the premiſes in 1446 to Sir Thomas Tyrell, Sir Peter Ardern, and others; and in 1664 they were purchaſed by Walter Writell, Eſq.: he was deſcended of a very ancient family in this county, Ralph de Fitz Ralph, Eſq., to whom Margaret Counteſs of Galway gave the manor of Writtle in this county, and from whence he took the ſurname of Writtle. He was ſheriff of Eſſex and Hertfordſhire in 1469 and 1471, and was buried in this church. In 1510 there was a partition made of this eſtate between the coheirs of Writell, James and Eleanor Walſingham, and Edward and Griſild Waldegrave; and in 1575 there was another partition between James Walſingham and his wife, and John Rocheſter and his wife, whereby the living became alternately preſented. In 1586 Rocheſter's part of the hall was purchaſed by John Pool. His deſcendants dwelt in the hall till 1708. Walſingham's part, which was land only, was purchaſed of Sir Thomas and Sir Andrew Walſingham by Robert Bourne of Blake-hall. The two moieties were afterwards purchaſed by the Houblon family.

Blake-hall ſtands about half a mile ſouth-eaſt of the church. It now has only the title of a manor without court or tenants. It was originally held of the honour of Clare, formerly by Robert de Haſtings, of the honour of Mareſcall, and then by John de Londres. Sir Robert Brent, who died in 1420, held this manor. It afterwards belonged to —— Thompſon, and in 1516 to Sir William Capel, who held it of Catharine queen of England as of the manor of Clare. Sir Robert Riche had it afterwards, and then John Waylett, of whom John Glaſſcock purchaſed it in 1592, and paid 4*l.* ingreſs fine. He in 1598 ſold it to Robert Bourne, Gent. Dorothy Thompſon and Ann Fowler poſſeſſed the eſtate, daughters of the ſiſter of Lord Digby, who had married Alice daughter of Robert Bourne. In 1709 they ſold it to John Clark, Eſq., and from him it came to Richard Clark, Eſq. his ſon. An eſtate called Bobbingford, alias Monkis, conſiſting of one meſſuage and 200 acres of land in this pariſh and others, belonged in 1496 to John Biddleſdon. There are alſo

other eſtates in the pariſh. In 1639 a compoſition was paid to the king for diſforeſting ſome lands, and 481 acres of this pariſh.

The church, dedicated to St. Germain, is of one pace with the chancel; the ſteeple, having on the top a ſpire ſhingled, contains four bells.

The rectory was anciently in the gift of the families of King, and of Thorley, and other lords of Bobbingworth-hall. It afterwards belonged to Sir John Archer, Knight, and to James Lordell, now to —— Houblon, Eſq. The land-tax is 899*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*

NORTH WEALD.

NORTH WEALD is ſo called to diſtinguiſh it from South Weald, from which it ſtands northerly, and ſignifies North Wood. Baſſet is added to the name, becauſe it belonged formerly to a branch of that noble family. It is alſo called Netherweld. In the reign of Henry II. it belonged to Henry de Eſſex, whoſe grandſon granted it to Philip Baſſet, who died in 1271. Aliva, his daughter and heireſs, married firſt Roger Bigod, and afterwards Hugh le Deſpencer. Her ſon Hugh le Deſpencer held this manor of John de Benſted in 1324: but Roger Bigod Earl of Norfolk giving up his eſtates to the crown, king Edward II. granted this among the reſt to his brother Edmund Plantagenet Earl of Kent, to hold by the yearly gift of one ſparhawk: for having endeavoured to releaſe the king his brother from his impriſonment, he was attainted and executed in 1330, and his eſtate given to Bartholomew de Burgherſh for life: but Edmund's attainder being reverſed, his ſon John Plantagenet, Earl of Kent, enjoyed the eſtate as part of his earldom, when, dying in 1352 without iſſue, it deſcended to his ſiſter Joan, the fair maid of Kent, married firſt to William Montacute Earl of Saliſbury, next to Thomas Holland Earl of Kent, and then to Edward the Black Prince. Upon her death in 1385 it deſcended to her ſon, Thomas Holland Earl of Kent. His ſiſter Eleanor brought it in marriage to her huſband Thomas Montacute Earl of Saliſbury, who died in 1428; and then it came to her daughter Alice, wife of Richard Nevill Earl of Saliſbury. She died in 1462. He was ſlain at the battle of Barnet-field in 1471; his eldeſt daughter and coheireſs, Iſabel, wife of George Plantagenet Duke of Clarence, held it at the time of his death in 1476. Margaret their daughter, widow of Sir Richard Pole, obtained it in 1513; but her fatal end in 1541 is well known. This eſtate coming to the crown, Henry VIII. in

1543

1543 granted the manor of North Weald to Richard Higham and his heirs. He in 1544 alienated it to Sir Richard Riche, who in the ſame year conveyed it to his ſecond ſon: from this noble family, after ſome years, it paſſed into that of Cheke of Pergo. In 1721 Letitia, widow of Thomas Cheke, died poſſeſſed of it. Lady Tipping, her daughter, enjoyed it next; and upon her death in 1728 it came to her youngeſt daughter Catharine, who married Thomas Lord Archer.

This manor had formerly a park; and there are ſome fields on the ſouth-weſt of the houſe called Park-fields. From this manor two others have ariſen, named Marſhalls and Cannes.

The manor of Marſhalls was ſo named from Roger Bigod, earl marſhal, firſt huſband of Aliva Baſſet. William Fitz-William of Milton in Northamptonſhire, Knight, who died in 1534, held the manor of Marſhalls. The manſion-houſe, which is now demoliſhed, ſtood within a moat; a family named Larder inhabited it not long ſince. Walter Larder, his wife and children, were buried here in the beginning of the laſt century. This eſtate was once in the Searle family, but it lately came to John Archer, Eſq. of Cooperſale. In 1570 John Smyth of Epping held of John Searle a manor or meſſuage called Welbridge. This Welbridge farm belonged lately to John Stokes.

The manor of Cawnes or Cannes belongs to Merton College, Oxford, and has for many years been held by leaſe by the family of Binckes. In 1631 Richard Spranger held of this manor a parcel of land called Arnot-croft, in North Weald, in free ſocage.

The manor of Paris has likewiſe been placed by ſome in this pariſh. Such a manor appears by the records to extend into this pariſh; but the chief part of it lies in the pariſhes of Harlow, Latten, and Theydon Gernon. It was held of John Writell, Eſq. as of his manor of Haſtlyns, and belonged to the Shaa family. Alice, daughter of Edward Shaa, brought it to her huſband William Poley, Eſq., who, at the time of his death in 1587, held this manor of George Colt, Eſq. In 1593 Sir John Poley died poſſeſſed of it; of his ſon, it was purchaſed by Mr. Fuller of Coggeſhall, clothier, from whom it deſcended to Mr. William Fuller.

Wheelers is an eſtate in this pariſh, about half a mile ſouth-weſt of the church, which belonged to the Rev. Simon Lynch, vicar of this pariſh. His daughter ſold it to John Searle, Gent. There are other lands in this pariſh.

Simon Thorowgood in 1635 deviſed by will the ſum of 50*l.* towards building a

grammar-ſchool-houſe in this pariſh, and gave to truſtees 10*l.* a year as an annuity for a ſchoolmaſter, payable out of his lands called Harts-grove in Barking, for inſtructing the children of this and the adjoining towns. Through ſome neglect this donation lied dormant about forty years till 1678, when, by a commiſſion of charitable uſes, it was recovered and ſettled as it now ſtands. A ſchool is kept, and the endowment well paid.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, conſiſts of a body and ſouth aiſle, at the upper end of which is a chapel. The tower is embattled. This church, by the name of Walde, was given to the priory of Clerkenwell in London by Cicely de Eſſex, with the patronage of it, and all its tithes and appurtenances. The great tithes were afterwards appropriated to that priory, and a vicarage ordained, of which the biſhop of London reſerved the collation to himſelf and his ſucceſſors, and they continued without interruption till 1483: but the nunnery of Clerkenwell claiming a right to the patronage, after many controverſies, it was decided that the preſentation ſhould be alternate between the biſhop of London and the owner of the impropriate tithes; and ſo it has ever ſince continued. After the diſſolution the rectory was granted in 1559 to William Doddington. It is a manor, and was many years ſince reckoned worth about 200*l.* per annum. John Searle had it, and conveyed it to George Finch, who married his daughter: the latter ſold it to William Plummer, Eſq., late repreſentative for the county of Herts, and it remained in his family. One of the Searle family left a diſtribution to the poor out of the rectory, the value of 36 buſhels of grain, wheat, barley, peas, and malt; or the value in money. The manor of North Weald had anciently a free chapel, in the diſpoſal of the lord. The vicar, beſides the ſmall tithes, is endowed with a third part of corn and hay, but pays to the rector four marks yearly. It is rated to the land-tax at 1145*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

GREENSTED.

GREENSTED ſignifies Green-place; it has generally the addition of Near Ongar to diſtinguiſh it from the other near Colcheſter. In the Confeſſor's reign Gotild was poſſeſſed of this manor, which at the time of the ſurvey belonged to Hamo Dapifer. Searle had 40 acres of this manor; and three freemen in the Saxons' time had enjoyed half a hide and 45 acres, and Ralph de Marci had half a hide and

5 acres

5 acres at the ſurvey. Hamo Dapifer dying without iſſue, his lands deſcended to his brother Robert Fitz-Hamo, to whom William Rufus gave the honour of Gloceſter. He died in 1107; his eldeſt daughter Maud married Robert, natural ſon of Henry I., to whom ſhe brought her uncle Hamo's large inheritance. He died in 1147. Whether king Stephen took this eſtate from him for his ſtrong adherence to his competitor the empreſs Maud, does not appear; but William, king Stephen's ſon, gave Greenſted, together with Chipping Ongar, to Richard de Lucy. From the Lucy's it came to the family of Rivers, and from them to William de la Hay, though we are not informed by what means. From him it came to the noble family of Stafford, under which it was held by the family of Bourchier, mentioned already under Moreton. In 1349 Robert Burgcher, at the time of his deceaſe, held a tenement in Greenſted, with the advowſon of the church of Ralph Baron de Stafford, as of the manor of Aungre or Ongar. Hugh Lord Stafford, who married Elizabeth, daughter and heireſs of Bartholomew Lord Bourchier, had this manor. Sir Lewis Robepart, ſecond huſband of this Elizabeth, had it; ſhe poſſeſſed it at the time of her deceaſe in 1433. Henry Bourchier Earl of Eſſex, who had the eſtate in 1483, held the manor of Henry Lord Stafford, Earl of Hereford and Northampton. His grandſon and ſucceſſor, Henry Earl of Eſſex, being killed by a fall from his horſe in 1540, this, with the reſt of his great eſtates, came to his only daughter and heireſs Anne, who married William Lord Parr, afterwards Marquis of Northampton: ſhe poſſeſſed the manor and advowſon of the church: ſhe died in 1570. But previous to this date the eſtate was purchaſed by Sir Richard Riche, who preſented to the rectory in 1548 and 1566. The eſtate was afterwards in the poſſeſſion of William Bourne, Gent., of the neighbouring pariſh of Bobbingworth; he preſented to the living in 1593; and next in the Young family, who preſented from 1617 to 1661. Mr. Gulton afterwards enjoyed the eſtate, and ſold it to Mr. Alexander Cleeve, citizen of London. He died in 1738. It then came to David Rebotier, Eſq. Greenſted-hall ſtands a ſhort way from the church to the eaſt, and is the ſeat and property of Craven Ord, Eſq.: it is a neat modern building.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, is ſmall, that and the chancel being of one pace. It is a remarkably ancient building, for the walls are of timber, not framed, but trees ſplit, or ſawed aſunder, and ſet into the ground. The Society of Antiquaries has a print of it engraved. This church was by act of parliament in 1548 conſolidated and united to that of Chipping Ongar, it being not more than

6*l.*

6*l.* in the king's books. The advowſon of Ongar was inveſted in the patron of Greenſted. But this conſolidation was diſſolved in 1554 by act of parliament. The rectory was for ſome years appendant on the manor; it was ſome time ſince purchaſed by Mr. Pratt, miniſter of St. Botolph's, Aldgate; and ſo ſettled, that upon every vacancy it is to be given to the curate of that church. There are 28 acres of glebe belonging to it. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 328*l.* 3*s.*

STANFORD RIVERS.

STANFORD RIVERS derives its name from a ſtony ford; which name was given to this pariſh becauſe there was a ford through the river Roding, which ran here with a very ſtrong current: it was paved with ſtone after the manner of the Romans, who raiſed a pavement in many of the rivers of Britain to make the paſſage more ſhallow, and ſave the expence of a bridge. The addition of Rivers is from a family of that name, ancient owners, to diſtinguiſh it from Stanford le Hope.

Stanford-hall ſtands a ſhort way north-eaſt of the church. In the Confeſſor's time the poſſeſſors were Aluuin and freemen: Euſtace Earl of Boulogne had it at the time of the ſurvey. Part of it then was called Little Stanford. Euſtace's grand-daughter Maud brought it in marriage to her huſband Stephen Earl of Blois, afterwards king of England. Her ſon William Earl of Morton and Surrey gave this lordſhip to Richard de Lucy. It continued in that family till 1213, when by marriage it came to Richard de Rivers. From that family it came into the noble family of Stafford. It came to the crown upon the attainders of Henry and Edward Dukes of Buckingham. In 1524 Henry VIII. granted to William Cary, Eſq. and his wife this manor among others; the eſtate belonged afterwards to William Lord Petre, in whoſe family it now remains.

Belhouſe, about half a mile ſouth-weſt of the church, has been chiefly the ſeat and reſidence of the Petre family in this pariſh. In ancient records it is written Gelhowes, and called a manor: Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Philip Malpas, citizen and clothier of London, and widow of Sir Thomas Cook, held at the time of her death this manor of the Earl of Wiltſhire in 1484, as of his manor of Stanford Rivers. Philip Cook was her ſon and heir. In 1524 it belonged to Robert Troblefield, and came after that into the Petre family.

Berwick, Cawnes or Cadnes, are two other reputed manors, partly in this pariſh. John Skrene in 1541 held them, and Richard Harper in 1517. They are now incorporated with the above eſtates.

Littlebury and Rockenhoe is another manor, of which the manſion-houſe ſtands about three quarters of a mile eaſt of the church; but moſt of the lands lie in the pariſh of High Ongar. In 1528 Richard Salinge held this manor of Catharine Queen of England, as of her manor of Anſtye. In the laſt century it belonged to John Attwood, Eſq. Mrs. Sarah Bull purchaſed this eſtate of that family: ſhe died in 1694. It has ſince that time continued in that family.

Here was formerly a park, which Humphrey de Waleden held in 1331 of the King of the honour of Boulogne as part of the manor of Stanford Rivers.

William Green, citizen and merchant taylor of London, gave to twelve of the pooreſt inhabitants 40*s*. a year, payable from certain lands and tenements in St. Botolph's, Aldgate, London. The time of the donation is not known. Here is alſo a payment of 10*s*. per annum from lands called Knights in this pariſh for the benefit of poor folk's marriages.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and is of one pace with the chancel; and both are of almoſt an equal breadth. It has a ſpire.

This valuable rectory was from the firſt in the gift of the crown. Queen Mary firſt annexing to the Duchy of Lancaſter in 1558 the lordſhips and manors of Stanford-rivers, Stanford-hall, and others, from that time the advowſon of the rectory has been in the hands of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaſter. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 2667*l*.

THEYDON.

THEYDON takes its name from two Saxon words, which ſignify Thegn's Hill; whence it is moſt probable that this diſtrict was originally the extenſive lordſhip of ſome Saxon Thane, as the word imports, and was then but one lordſhip. When afterwards divided into three, they became ſtyled, for the ſake of diſtinction, Ad Montem, Gernon, and Bois. But that diſtinction was not known at the time of the general ſurvey.

Theydon-mount is the part which belonged to Codric in the time of the Confeſſor, and was one of the lordſhips which William the Conqueror beſtowed on Sweyn of

Eſſex.

Eſſex. Henry of Eſſex, Conſtable of Henry II., held it next, who, for throwing down the ſtandard in a battle with the Welſh in 1163, which occaſioned the defeat of the Engliſh, was deprived of all his eſtates. In 1210 Henry de Theydon held three knights fees here. The eſtate was ſoon after in the poſſeſſion of Lord Robert de Bruys, in exchange for other lands which he had yielded to Robert de Waleran. John de Lexenton afterwards held the manor. He had licence in 1250 to make a park in Theydon. His brother and heir dying in 1258, his nephews, William de Sutton and Richard de Markham, ſucceeded. This manor being a very fine one, and lying contiguous to Stapleford Tany, Richard de Tany the younger obtained a pretended and fraudulent grant of it, and, under pretence of that grant, ſeized ſome lands in the pariſh belonging to Robert de Sutton, the king's enemy, during the wars between him and his barons. The Sutton family appears to have been reſtored very ſoon after, and even to have held the manor and advowſon of Bruys. They kept poſſeſſion of it till 1331, when John de Sutton, Lord of Dudley, granted the manor and advowſon for twelve years to Henry de Malyns. It continued with them till about 1432. The eſtate came next to the family of Hampden, in an age when there were ſo many confiſcations during the wars of York and Lancaſter, that the period of its continuance with them is involved in obſcurity.

Sir Thomas Smith purchaſed the reverſion of this eſtate, which he had by his wife, the widow of Sir John Hampden. He was a moſt excellent orator, mathematician, and philoſopher. He was ſecretary of ſtate, and a moſt accompliſhed ſcholar; and died in 1577, and was buried in the chancel of the church. He had two brothers: the eſtate continued in the family.

Hill-hall, the family ſeat, was built by Sir Thomas Smith, and ſtands on a hill, whence it derived its name. Sir Thomas called it in French Mont-haut. He began the ſtately building near the old houſe; and as he did not live long enough to finiſh it, made proviſion in his will to have it completed. The houſe is quadrangular, with very ſtrong and thick walls, adorned with great columns in imitation of ſtone; and the court is paved with freeſtone: it has a delightful proſpect on all ſides, eſpecially towards the ſouth and weſt. The entrance to it is from the north, along an avenue of great length and ſuitable breadth; on each ſide of which are rows of ſtately elms and other plantations. Great alterations were made in it during the laſt century by Sir Edward Smith, and many more by his ſucceſſors. Sir Richard Glynn and others have eſtates in the pariſh.

The

The church, which is very pleaſantly ſituated, is dedicated to St. Michael; it was burnt by lightning, and rebuilt by the firſt Sir William Smith. It is of one pace with the chancel. The tower is of brick, and has a ſpire ſhingled. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 985*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*

THEYDON GERNON.

THEYDON GERNON derived its name from a branch of the Gernon family. Robert Gernon, or Grenon, as it is written frequently in the Domeſday-book, was one of thoſe chiefs who accompanied William the Conqueror in his expedition into England, and was amply rewarded by him, particularly with thirty-one lordſhips in this county. He had two ſons, William and Robert; William was of Stanſted, and dropping the ſurname of Gernon, took that of Montfichet, from the raiſed mount on which his caſtle ſtood. In the Confeſſor's reign it belonged to Ulmar: but at the time of the ſurvey it was held by Eudo Dapifer. Paulinus de Theydon and Henry de Theydon had it in Henry III.'s reign; and Paulinus had a fair and market here. Ralph de Gernon had it in 1247, when he died. Adam de Welles, who died in 1345, held the manor of Thomas Gernon, by the ſervice of 7*s.* per annum. In 1461 Leo de Welles was killed at Towton-field fighting for King Henry VI., whereby his eſtates were confiſcated by Edward IV. The eſtate thus eſcheating to the crown, appears to have been divided.

The manſion-houſe of the manor of Theydon Gernon, called Garniſh-hall, ſtands about half a mile north-weſt of the church. After the above attainder the next poſſeſſor of the eſtate was Francis Hampden, Eſq. in right of his wife in 1507 and 1535. He was a branch of the neighbouring Hampdens of Theydon-mount. He had only daughters coheireſſes; one of them, married to Edward Biſhop, Gent., held this manor in 1544. Ellen, wife of John Branche, citizen and merchant of London; ſhe died in 1567, and held the manor. Her ſon John Branche had it next. Sir Daniel Dun, Knight, eldeſt ſon of Anne, ſiſter of the above, held it; he died in 1617. Ralph Sheldon, Eſq., of Ditchford in Warwickſhire, married Elizabeth, only daughter and heireſs of the laſt of the Dun family, who poſſeſſed it. About the year 1660 it was purchaſed by Sir Richard Abdy, Knight and Baronet, of Albins in Stapleford, and ſince that time has continued in his poſterity.

Park-hall, or Gains-park, was in poſſeſſion of Robert Gernon, who obtained leave of Henry III. to encloſe his wood of Theydon for a park, called Le Geyt; which park gave name to this eſtate. The manſion-houſe ſtood about two miles north-eaſt of the church, but is now pulled down. The noble family of Welles was poſſeſſed of this manor. Upon the forfeiture of Leo, Edward IV. granted it to his own ſecond daughter Cecily, wife of John Lord Welles. The eſtate was next in the poſſeſſion of Sir William Fitz-William, citizen of London, and alderman in 1506. It remained in this family a conſiderable time. In 1617 Sir Richard Wingfield, Knight, held the manor of Park-hall; and about 1636 —— Harriſon, Eſq. held it. The Earls of Angleſea have ſince been the poſſeſſors of this eſtate.

Cooperſale is a capital houſe, about two miles north of the church. The name does not occur before the reign of James I.; it was most probably originally Cooper's-hall. It was a conſiderable time the reſidence of the Archer family. This family derives itſelf from Simon de Bois, who attended Henry V. at the battle of Agincourt. The occaſion of his changing his name was this: At a ſhooting-match with king Henry at Havering-atte-bower, he performed ſo well, that the king ordered his name to be that of Archer. The eſtate went through his family in ſucceſſion, till John dying without iſſue, Eleanor his ſiſter inherited. She was the firſt wife of Sir Walter Wrotteſley, Bart. of Wrotteſley in Shropſhire, and left an only daughter Eleanor, upon whom her uncle Archer ſettled the eſtate: ſhe married William Eyres, Eſq. A ſeat which belonged to Jernegan Cleveley, Eſq., is alſo in this pariſh.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, conſiſts of a body and north aiſle. The chancel is of one pace with the church. The rectory was originally in the gift of the Gernon family. In 1458 John Prince, who married Elizabeth of this family, had a nephew of that name who ſucceeded him. How it paſſed to the ſucceeding patrons does not appear; but it is appendant to the manor of Gernon, alias Garniſh-hall; has been in the Abdy family ſince the year 1660, and is now in the heirs of Sir Robert Abdy, Bart., of Albins. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 215*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*

THEYDON BOIS.

THEYDON BOIS is the moſt ſouthern, and the leaſt of theſe three pariſhes; the addition of Bois, which in French ſignifies wood, was annexed to the name, either becauſe it ſtood more among the woods than the others; or it was received from ſome ancient poſſeſſors of the name. In the Confeſſor's reign, Hacun and Uluuin and ſeven freemen enjoyed the pariſh, which was held at the time of the ſurvey by Peter de Valoines. The manor afterwards belonged to John de Tany, ſon of Sir Peter, who gave it in the reign of Henry III. to Waltham-abbey: they continued in poſſeſſion of it till the ſuppreſſion, when it was valued at 8*l.* per annum. The demeſnes of this manor were then very extenſive, but have ſince been much leſſened, as the owners have ſold off conſiderable portions from time to time. The eſtate remained in the crown till 1551, when Edward VI. granted it to Sir Thomas Wrothe, of Loughton. It continued in this family ſome time, till it was purchaſed by Edward Elrington, who before had the manor in this pariſh of Birch-hall.

Birch-hall manſion-houſe ſtands on a hill, on the road from Waltham-abbey to Affe-bridge. The Elrington family have reſided here ſince they came into poſſeſſion of the great tithes of the pariſh. About the year 1656 this family ſold all their eſtates here to John Smart of London, merchant: they were afterwards purchaſed by Robert Meggott, Eſq., who died in 1721: he left a ſon and a daughter. Smart Lethieullier, Eſq., bought one of them; but ſince his death his heirs have ſold it to John Hopkins, Eſq., of Hornchurch. There is no court kept at Theydon-hall, but at Birch-hall, and ſometimes on Theydon-green.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel; a ſmall wooden turret, with a ſpire ſhingled, contains three bells. The church was given by William de Boſco to the priory of St. Bartholomew's, Weſt Smithfield, and confirmed in 1253 by Henry III.'s charter. They preſented to it twice as a rectory, and then the whole tithes were appropriated to them; it then became a curacy, and ſo continues, being ſupplied by ſuch clergymen as the impropriator nominates, and the biſhop licences. It is augmented by Queen Anne's bounty. The tithes after the diſſolution were granted by Henry VIII. in 1543 to Edward Elrington above mentioned. He was chief butler of England to Edward VI., Queen Mary and Elizabeth. It continued in his poſterity, with the reſt of the pariſh, till 1656, when it was ſold to John Smart, Eſq., and has paſſed with the reſt of the eſtates. This pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 981*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

LOUGHTON.

THE name of this pariſh is derived from the Saxon words, which ſignify an encloſure, and a town or village; or perhaps from the word low. It is one of the ſeventeen lordſhips with which Earl Harold endowed his monaſtery of Waltham. It is entered at firſt in Domeſday-book under Becontree hundred. The eſtate continued in the canons of Waltham Holy-croſs till their ſuppreſſion, when it came to the crown, being then valued at 46*l.* per annum. In 1558 Queen Mary annexed the lordſhip and manor of Lucton, with ſeveral others, to the duchy of Lancaſter.

Loughton-hall manor-houſe ſtands near the church. In 1551 Edward VI. granted this manor and the advowſon of the church, among many others, to Sir Thomas D'Arcy and his heirs. It was again in the crown in 1569. The Wrothe family, mentioned above in Theydon Bois, ſoon after became poſſeſſed of it by the marriage of Suſan, daughter of Francis Stonard, Gent., of this place. This family had been ſeated here ſome time. John Wrothe, Eſq., who died in 1718, having no iſſue, left this eſtate to the Right Honourable William Henry Earl of Rochford. His lordſhip in 1745 ſold it for the ſum of 24,500*l.* to William Whitaker, Eſq., of Lime-ſtreet, London, alderman, who ſettled this eſtate and manor on his ſecond wife Anne, and after her death on his youngeſt daughter. It is reported, that in 1688 the Princeſs of Denmark, afterwards Queen Anne, retired to Loughton-hall, when ſhe diſcovered the ill aſpect of her father's affairs. There are other eſtates in this pariſh, which were in poſſeſſion of Sir William Johnſon, Sackville Bate, Eſq., and others.

The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, conſiſts of a body and north aiſle, the length both of the church and chancel. It has a ſhingled ſpire.

The rectory belonged to Waltham-abbey till the diſſolution: after that, in 1554, George Stonard and Edward Stacy once preſented by virtue of a turn granted to them from the abbey: the crown preſented next from 1555 to 1609: then it came into the Wrothe family, and afterwards to Mrs. Whitaker. Loughton pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 168*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*

CHIGWELL.

IN the ancient records this place is called CINGWELLA, ſuppoſed to mean the King's Well. It is in the moſt ſouthern part of the hundred of Ongar. In ancient times it was part of the royal demeſnes. It is about ten miles and a half from London on the Ongar road. The pariſh is bounded on the eaſt by Lambourn, north-eaſt by Loughton, north by Chingford, weſt by Woodford, ſouth-weſt by Barking, and ſouth by Dagenham. According to a ſurvey which was made in 1611, it contains 2527 acres of cultivated land. The proportion of arable to paſture is about three to one. Its ſhare of Epping and Hainault foreſt is very conſiderable; both of them are included in the ancient foreſt of Waltham. In the neighbourhood of the village the ſoil is a light gravel mixed with ſand, and abounding with ſprings: a ſtiff clay without water predominates in other parts of the pariſh.

In this pariſh are three capital manors: Chigwell-hall, Barringtons or Rolls, and Wolſton-hall.

The firſt, now called Chigwell-hall, was before the Conqueſt held by Earl Harold of Edward the Confeſſor. In the reign of William the Conqueror Ralph de Limeſei was in poſſeſſion of it, whoſe great-grandſon Alan granted it to Richard de Luci, and Ralph Briton had it from the latter. Richard de Luci granted it ſubſequently to William Goldyngham at the petition of Briton; another grant was made at the requeſt of Goldyngham to Robert, ſon of Ralph Briton, to whom Goldyngham granted this manor in fee and for ever. Homage was paid, and a ſum of money each time given. This happened in the reign of Henry II.: the manor, however, appears to have continued for ſeveral generations in the family of Goldynghams, who held it under the Lords Fitzwalter. Sir Alexander Goldyngham in 1382 had the royal licence to impark fifty acres of land in Waltham foreſt adjoining to his manor of Chigwell. It was next in the family of Bourchier; for John Lord Bourchier and Sir Bartholomew Bourchier had the advowſon at the time. It proceeded next to the family of Mannock. John Mannock in 1476 died ſeiſed of it. George Mannock, his ſon and heir, ſold it to Sir Thomas Audley and others for the uſe, as was ſuppoſed, of the crown. In 1538, it then being veſted in the crown, it was leaſed to William Bolt. Edward VI. in 1550 granted it to Sir Thomas Wrothe; in his family it continued till 1669, when Sir William Hicks, Bart., purchaſed it; from

him it deſcended to Michael Hicks Beach, Eſq. M.P., ſecond ſon of Sir Howe Hicks, Bart. who enjoys it under the wills of Sir Harry Hicks and Michael Hicks, Eſq.

Sir Harry Hicks ſold Chigwell-hall, the manor-houſe and farm, to William Davy, Eſq., treaſurer of St. Luke's Hoſpital. James Urſton, Eſq., purchaſed it of his executors. —— Moffat, Eſq. purchaſed it of him; and Eliab Harvey, Eſq., bought it of —— Moffat, Eſq.

Weſt-hatch, a nominal manor, belonged alſo to the Goldynghams. In 1410 Sir Walter Goldyngham ſettled it, in default of iſſue of himſelf and wife Elizabeth, on Robert Writtle. Walter Writtle died ſeiſed of it in 1476. George Mannock had it in 1534; and he ſold it to Sir Thomas Audley, together with the manor of Chigwell-hall: ſince which time it has paſſed through the ſame hands.

The manor-houſe, which is about a mile from the church on the Woodford road, was in 1673 the reſidence of Sir William Nutt, who died in that year. Sir Edward Walpole purchaſed it of John Crockatt, Eſq., in the middle of the laſt century. George Curling, Eſq., had it from the widow of Mr. Nutt. Mr. Curling ſold it to Lady Hughes, relict of Sir Edward Hughes, K. B. A new houſe has been built near the ſite.

Barringtons, alias Rolls manor, is about a mile north of the church; the manor-houſe is called Rolls. In the reign of the Confeſſor it was ſuppoſed to have been held by Doth; and at the time of the Norman ſurvey, under Robert Gernon, by Anſchetill. It is uncertain how it came into the hands of De Vere; but about the reign of Stephen or Henry II. Alberie de Vere granted it to Sir Humphrey, ſon of Sir Euſtace de Barrington: it continued in this family's poſſeſſion till, being held under the Veres, Earls of Oxford, and called the manor of Chigwell, as late as the year 1537, when John Barrington died ſeiſed of it. Stephen Wiſeman died ſeiſed of it in 1563, and Thomas Wiſeman, Eſq., in 1584. John Hawkins purchaſed it of another Thomas Wiſeman, and about the middle of the ſeventeenth century a moiety of it was bought by Eliab Harvey, Eſq., brother of the celebrated Dr. Harvey: the other moiety was in the Comyns family about 1695; and afterwards by intermarriage came to Sir Hugh Middleton, Bart., of whom it was purchaſed by the Harveys.

The manor of Woolſton or Woolverſtone, anciently called Ulferneſtern, was the property of Earl Harold. This appears to have been formerly a pariſh of itſelf, or

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at leaſt a very conſiderable hamlet, and ſince the Conqueſt united to Chigwell. At the time of the ſurvey it was part of the royal demeſnes, and was farmed by the king to the ſheriff. After having continued for ſeveral years in the crown, it was granted by Henry II. to a family called de Sandford, who held it by ſerjeantcy to find a damſel for the purpoſe of waiting upon the queen on the day of her coronation. Hugh Earl of Oxford purchaſed the wardſhip and marriage of Alice, daughter and heireſs of Gilbert de Sandford, of King Henry III., or of the Biſhop of London, who perhaps had bought it of the king as a truſtee for the earl: he beſtowed her in marriage to his eldeſt ſon Robert, who ſucceeded him, and in right of his wife became Baron Sandford. By her, beſides Robert his ſon and heir, he had a daughter Joan, who married William, eldeſt ſon of John Earl of Warren and Surrey, and had the reverſion of this manor as part of her marriage portion. On the death of John Earl of Surrey, without iſſue, in 1347, this and his other eſtates devolved upon his ſiſter Alice, wife of Edmund Earl of Arundel. The poſſeſſions of this family were twice forfeited by attainder, and afterwards reſtored, when Thomas Earl of Arundel died ſeiſed of the manor in 1414, when the inheritance came to his three ſiſters. Sir Rowland Lenthall, having married Margaret Fitz-Alan, left no iſſue at his death in 1451; his ſhare was therefore divided between the Norfolk and Abergavenny families, who repreſented the other coheirs. John Duke of Norfolk was killed at the battle of Boſworth-field, and his eſtates forfeited. The whole manor being then veſted in the crown, was granted about the middle of Henry VII.'s reign to William Scott, Eſq., a deſcendant of Chief Juſtice Scott, who died in 1540. It continued in that family till 1780, when Robert, ſon of William Bodle, Eſq., by Elizabeth, daughter of George Scott, Eſq., who died in 1710, inherited it.

The manor-houſe ſtands about a mile and half eaſt of the church.

The manor of Grange, or Barnes, belonged to the priory of Tiltey. After the ſuppreſſion it was granted by Henry VIII. in 1537 to Thomas Addington and his heirs, who ſold it in 1554 to James Altham, Eſq., and, doing it without a licence, was obliged to procure a pardon, as was Altham alſo for ſelling it without one to Anthony Browne, Eſq.: he made it part of the endowment of his free grammar-ſchool at Brentwood. It was formerly a hamlet, but now only a farm on Grange-hill.

Luxborough is about a mile ſouth-weſt of the church. Till the beginning of the ſeventeenth century there is no account of the poſſeſſors or the name of this eſtate, when

Sir

Sir Robert Wrothe, dying in 1605, held the manor of Luxborough, &c. of the manor of Chigwell by fealty.

Of ſome of the heirs of his ſon the manor was purchaſed by Robert Knight, Eſq. caſhier of the South-Sea Company, who built here a very excellent houſe, called Luxborough-houſe; which was ſold by the South-Sea Company, upon the eſtates being ſeized, to Sir Joſeph Eyles; he died in 1740; and it was repurchaſed by Mr. Knight. His ſon, who ſucceeded to this eſtate, was in 1746 created an Iriſh peer, by the title of Baron Luxborough, and in 1763 Earl of Catherlough. In 1749 he ſold the eſtate to James Crockatt, Eſq., whoſe heirs alienated it to Sir Edward Walpole, K. B. Samuel Peach, Eſq., bought it of Sir Edward, and he ſoon after diſpoſed of it to Sir Edward Hughes, K. B. That celebrated naval officer made it his country reſidence, and died there in 1794: it then became the property of his widow.

Within this pariſh, in the foreſt, was an ancient palace, called Potteles, alias Langfords. As early as the year 1350 a purchaſe was made by the crown in the pariſh, and another of houſe and lands in 1477 by Edward IV. of Robert Langford. The king probably granted this houſe and lands to his brother the Duke of Clarence; for upon the death of that prince Potteles-place came to the crown. Sir John Riſley was appointed keeper of the palace at Chigwell to Henry VIII. by that prince; and upon his death Sir William Compton had a grant of the place in 1513. William Lord Compton had a new grant from queen Elizabeth in 1596. In 1650 Sir Thomas Perient was poſſeſſed of the fee of this eſtate: it was called at that time the manor, or reputed manor of King's-place, alias Langfords. Henry Goodricke, Eſq., having married Mary Ernle, a relation of Lady Perient, the eſtate was ſettled on her; and in 1658 conveyed by Henry Goodricke and his wife to William Liveſay. In 1679 William Liveſay the elder, and William Liveſay the younger, made it over to Mrs. Elizabeth Colwall, widow. The truſtees of Daniel Colwall, Eſq., who died in 1707, conveyed it in 1716 to Percival Chandler, whoſe ſon in 1741 ſold it to Oliver Marton, Eſq. In 1759 it was purchaſed of Oliver Marton, Clerk, by Robert Jones, Eſq., and thence it became the property of his grandſon Robert Jones Adeane, Eſq.

There was an eſtate in the pariſhes of Chigwell and Barking, called Buckhurſt, alias Goldhurſt, which Sir Walter Goldyngham ſettled on Robert Writtle. It deſcended, in all probability, with the manors of Chigwell-hall and Weſt-hatch.

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An eſtate alſo in this pariſh, and Woodford, called Buckhurſt, alias Monkenhill, now Monkhams, belonged to the abbot and convent of Stratford Langthorn, and was granted to John Lyon and his heirs in 1547. Lady Hughes laſt poſſeſſed it.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and conſiſts of a body and north aiſle. At the weſt end is a wooden belfry, with a ſpire. The ſouth door is of Saxon architecture, with lozenge mouldings.

The advowſon of the church of Chigwell, which is in the dioceſe of London and deanery of Ongar, was formerly annexed to the manor, and held together with it by the manor of Goldyngham. In 1350 the parſon of Lambeth had licence to appropriate the church to the priory of Latton. In 1404 Bartholomew Lord Bourchier granted the church of Chigwell to John Doreward, who in 1439 gave it to the priory of St. Botolph in Colcheſter: and they procured a licence to appropriate it to themſelves and ſucceſſors; by virtue of which they twice appointed to the vicarage. But in 1451 and 1466 the rectors again uſed their right. Soon after Thomas Kemp, Biſhop of London, founding a chantry in St. Paul's church, endowed it with the advowſon of this church, and with lands here and at Clacton. In 1474 he appropriated to the prieſts of that chantry and confeſſor the prebend of St. Pancras, under which the great tithes are held upon a leaſe for three lives. In the beginning of the laſt century the leaſe was veſted in Sir Joſeph Eyles; it was afterwards purchaſed by James Crockatt, Eſq., who in 1776 bequeathed it to his daughter Jane, wife of Sir Alexander Crawfurd. In 1791 a new leaſe was granted to Sir Alexander for the lives of his three children. Dr. Paley, the archdeacon of Carliſle, and prebendary of Pancras, of courſe as ſuch was rector of Chigwell.

It appears that in former times a rector of this pariſh having a plurality of benefices, inſtituted here a vicarage, and gave it to his relation, allowing him half the profits of the rectory. This practice continued after his death: and in 1374 Henry Marmion, being then rector, a vicarage was endowed with a houſe and glebe, the uſual vicarial tithes, and the tithes of certain water-mills. In 1440 the vicarage was valued at eighteen marks per annum. It was at that time rated in the king's books at 18*l.* Since its union with the prebend of Pancras it has been in the gift of the prebendary. Dr. Utey was ejected from this vicarage in the year 1641, in conſequence of a petition from the inhabitants to Parliament, charging him with having erected an altar in the church, and performing the duty contrary to the laws of the eſtabliſhed church. A printed copy of this petition is now in the Britiſh Muſeum.

In 1629 Archbiſhop Harſnet founded two free-ſchools in the pariſh: he endowed them with the rectory of Tottington in Norfolk. The advowſon of the vicarage was veſted in feoffees, who were to preſent to a fit perſon educated at Chigwell ſchool, or a native of the place. The vicar of Chigwell and rector of Loughton are always of the number with ten other perſons. They elect the maſter. The Latin maſter muſt be a graduate of one of the univerſities, ſkilled in Greek and Latin, a good poet; of ſound religion, neither Papiſt nor Puritan; of good behaviour; of ſober and honeſt converſation; no tipler, nor haunter of ale-houſes; no puffer of tobacco, and apt to teach and ſevere in his government; he is directed to teach Lilly's Latin Grammar and Cleonard's Greek Grammar; for phraſe and ſtyle to infuſe into his ſcholars no other than Tully and Terence; for poets to read the ancient Greek and Latin, no novelties or conceited modern authors. The qualifications for the other maſter are, that he write fair ſecretary and Roman hands; that he be ſkilful in cyphering and caſting accompts, and to teach his ſcholars the ſame. Twelve boys, natives of Chigwell, and ſix others from Loughton, Woodford, and Lambourn, are to be inſtructed gratis in the Latin ſchool; in the other ſchool twelve children of Chigwell, with two from Woodford, Loughton, and Lambourn, are alſo to be educated. The plan was afterwards altered under the ſanction of the Biſhop of London. William Penn, founder of Pennſylvania, was educated at Chigwell. There is a charity-ſchool for twelve girls, and alms-houſes for three poor widows.

There is a ſpring near the windmill at Chigwell-row of a cathartic quality; but it is now quite neglected. The pariſh is laid to the land-tax at 2885*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

LAMBOURN.

THIS pariſh derives its name from two Saxon words, which ſignify a Lamb, or Dirt probably, and a Brook. The different manors and eſtates of this pariſh are ſet down in ancient records in a more confuſed manner than any others. In the Confeſſor's reign, the only poſſeſſor here upon record was Leffi; and in the ſurvey, the only one named is Euſtace Earl of Boulogne. After him the oldeſt poſſeſſor here was Pharin de Boulogne; and then Sibill de Feſnes about the year 1210.

Lambourn-hall, the manſion-houſe of the capital manor in this pariſh, ſtands at a ſhort diſtance north of the church. It is now only a farm-houſe; the owners have commonage,

monage, &c. in the foreſt. In the reign of King John, a family of the name of De Feſnes was poſſeſſed of this eſtate: but they ſoon diſpoſed of it, or named themſelves from the place; for in 1218 we find a lord of the name of Robert de Lamburn giving the rectory to Waltham-abbey. It continued in the Lambourn family till 1362, when William dying under age, was ſucceeded by his ſiſter Joan, wife of Sir William Chene. Thomas Lampet held it about the reign of Henry IV.: till the year 1485 no account is handed down of this manor. John Curſon in that year held it of Jaſper Duke of Bedford. It next came into the Barefoot family; which continued in poſſeſſion of it till the beginning of the laſt century. Robert Barefoot, citizen and mercer of London, held the manor, &c. as of the hundred of Ongar, by ſuit of that hundred, and the ſervice of wardſtaff, to carry a load of ſtraw with a cart and ſix horſes, and two men in rapiers to watch the wardſtaff when it was brought to the town of Abridge, and alſo to mend a certain quantity of the park-pale when need be, in lieu of all ſervices. John Forteſcue Aland, Eſq. had it next to this family; he was created Baron Forteſcue.

Shepes-hall is another manor here. Henry Spencer, the military Biſhop of Norwich, in 1383, held this manor, called Shepes-hall of Norwich, of the prior of St. John of Jeruſalem, and of Sir John Sutton, and of the king in capite. This martial prelate was bred up to the ſervice of arms in Italy under Adrian the pope, in his wars with the Duke of Milan, and as a reward for his conduct and valour received from him the biſhopric of Norwich in 1370. Having aſſembled a fleet, and tranſported an army into the Netherlands againſt the king's will, in order to puniſh thoſe who had thrown off the authority of the pope; the parliament ſeized his temporalties and kept them two years; but they were at that time reſtored. He had been of great ſervice to his king and country in 1381 during Wat Tyler's inſurrection, and by ſtratagem and valour had ſubdued the malcontents, deſtroying great numbers of them, and making examples of their leaders. He quarrelled with the monks of Norwich, whom he humbled and obliged to purchaſe their peace at high and exorbitant terms. The Biſhops of Norwich had lands in Lambourn till the Reformation, when they came into the poſſeſſion of the Chancellor Audley, who alienated them in 1538 to William Hale; and he in 1555 again diſpoſed of them to William Porter and others. Biſhopſhall was the houſe which belonged to the eſtate, about half a mile ſouth-weſt of the church. It was lately the ſeat of Thomas Walker, Eſq.,

ſurveyor-general to the king; upon whoſe death it came to his nephew Stephen Skynner, Eſq. and his heirs.

Hunts, Affebridge, and Arneways, are other eſtates in this pariſh. The former took its name from John Hunt and his partners, who held half a fee in Lambourn under the Earls of Oxford in 1358 and 1370.

Affebridge or Abridge, a hamlet or manor here, took its name from the bridge over the river Rodon. This eſtate, or adjoining lands, were given to the knights hoſpitallers by Peter de Valoines and William de Bois. Arneways was ſo called from Adam de Arneway, who jointly with the Biſhops of Norwich and Joane Pellican held half a fee here, under the Earls of Oxford, about the reign of Henry VI. But the Earls had a part of it in demeſne within their manor of Stapleford Abbot. Sir William Fitz-William held land here of the manor of the Counteſs of Saliſbury, and other lands of the Counteſs of Oxford. His ſon William Fitz-William ſucceeded him at his death in 1536. In 1552 Richard Morgan and Thomas Carpenter held the manor of Lambourn and Affebridge. Robert Taverner held them, and died in 1556. His ſon ſucceeded to them. The manors were in poſſeſſion of Sir Robert Wrothe in 1605, and afterwards in the Peacock family. In Charles I.'s time Arneways belonged to Robert Draper, Eſq. Mr. John Todd of Walthamſtow held it lately. He gave a moiety to Mr. William Church, who married his daughter: their heir and daughter was married to Mr. Peter Searle, who brought it to him. Mr. Searle ſold it to Mr. Scott of Woolſton-hall, and then it went to his ſon.

The manſion-houſe of Arnolds is a large old timber building, a mile and half north-eaſt of the church beyond Abridge. Lambourn Abridge, alias St. John's, is mentioned as another manor in this pariſh. In 1637 it belonged to Francis Peacocke, Eſq.: from this family it went to Scott of Chigwell, and William Scott, Eſq., gave it to his daughter in marriage with the Rev. Dr. Derham of Upminſter. It is now only a farm, and is not reckoned a manor.

Deux-hall, or Dawes-hall, is another eſtate here. The firſt mention of it under that name is in 1505, when Reginald Ryſmere held the manor of Edward Duke of Buckingham. In 1539 Sir William Sulyard held it, then deſcribed as 400 acres of arable and paſture. In 1621 it was in the family of Palmer: one of this family ſold it to Catlyn Thorowgood, Eſq., who was chief factor to the South-Sea Company at Porto-Bello and Vera-Cruz, and was ſheriff of the county in 1729. His

ſon

ſon ſold it to Richard Lockwood, Eſq., an eminent Turkey merchant, and member of parliament: he made a conſiderable addition to the old brick building with much taſte; the new part makes the front, and is judiciouſly joined with the old. The ſeat ſtands a ſhort way ſouth of the church.

Priors is about a mile and half from Abridge: it moſt probably belonged to ſome priory. It was part of the eſtate of Henry Earl of Suſſex, who in 1553 ſold it to Robert Taverner, Eſq. Robert Draper, Eſq., had it at the time of his death in 1635, having bought it of the grandſon of Robert Taverner, Eſq. William Draper in 1641 ſold it to Robert Bromfield, whoſe grandſon by will gave it to his ſiſter, wife of Nicholas Staphurſt, M.D.; their ſon ſold the eſtate to Dr. Thomas Tooke, rector of the pariſh. In continued in that family. The Luther family had formerly ſeveral parcels of land in the pariſh. In the pariſh are two alms-houſes without endowment.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is of one pace with the chancel. At the weſt end is a ſpire. The building appears to be very ancient, as the north door is indented, and the pillars are of the Tuſcan order. The church was given by Robert de Lambourn to the canons of Waltham Holy-crofs, and confirmed to them by the Biſhop of London in 1218. It continued a rectory till the diſſolution of monaſteries: then it came ſucceſſively into the hands of Antony Cooke, Nicholas Bacon, Catherine Barefoot, who had a grant of one turn from the convent and abbey, Thomas Taverner, Robert Draper, Bromfield, and Staphurſt. Dr. Tooke purchaſed the advowſon of Nicholas Staphurſt in 1712, and gave it to Corpus Chriſti College, Cambridge, of which he had been a fellow. They had the patronage after fifty years from his death; which right of preſentation he reſerved for his brother's family. He died in 1721. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 1413*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

STAPLEFORD.

THERE are two contiguous pariſhes, named Stapleford, one on the ſouth ſide, the other on the north ſide of the river Rodon. The name is derived from a Saxon word, ſignifying piles, which probably were uſed at the ford of the river for the convenience of paſſengers.

Stapleford Abbots is on the ſouth ſide of the river, and ſo called, becauſe it belonged to the abbot and convent of St. Edmund's Bury in Suffolk. The occaſion of its

its being given to the abbey is thus related. The body of Edward the Martyr was removed in the year 1010 to London from Bury on account of the Danes, who infeſted that part of the country. Three years after, upon the removal of it again back into Suffolk, the lord of the manor, who was languiſhing with illneſs, received it into his houſe; and being wonderfully recovered by this charitable action, he from gratitude gave this manor to the abbey, where St. Edmund's body reſted. Such is the legendary ſtory. In this pariſh are three manors: Stapleford-hall, Batailes, and Albins.

Stapleford-hall, the manſion-houſe of this capital manor, ſtands a ſhort way ſouth of the church. As before the Conqueſt it had belonged to St. Edmund's Bury, ſo it continued in it at the time of the ſurvey; and they had the privilege here as at Harlow of being exempted from the regarders of the foreſt. In 1540, upon the diſſolution, this manor was granted to John Maynard; and in the ſame year he alienated it to Bryan Tooke, which grant was not executed, but a freſh one made to John Maynard. He had the advowſon of the church with it, and Haman's grove, paying for it 400*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* The eſtate again reverted to the crown, and has continued in it ever ſince; for which reaſon it is called Stapleford Regis. Grace Lady Carteret and Counteſs of Granville held it by leaſe of the crown till her death in 1744, and it then went to her ſon the Earl of Granville.

Batailes-hall, the manor-houſe, ſtands about a quarter of a mile weſt from the church. It took its name from a family of Batailes, who enjoyed it as early as the reign of Henry II. Five freemen poſſeſſed it in the time of the Saxons; but at the ſurvey it formed part of the large eſtates of Robert Gernon. Margery, one of the coheirs and daughters of Sir Richard Bataile, whoſe family had held it long under the Gernons, marrying Sir William de Sutton, brought him with others this eſtate. He held them in 1302 of Giles de Plaiz, a deſcendant of the Gernons, who had taken the name of Montfichet. Thomas de Sutton dying without iſſue, Margery, daughter of Sir Richard de Sutton, who died in 1395, inherited theſe eſtates. She was the wife of John Walton, Eſq. Richard Walton dying in 1408, was ſucceeded by his ſiſter, wife of Sir John Howard: he died in 1424, leaving Elizabeth his daughter and heireſs, married afterwards to the Earl of Oxford. He being beheaded in 1461 for his adherence to Henry VI., this manor underwent the fate of the other eſtates of this family; but was reſtored to his grandſon. It afterwards belonged to the Smith family. Anne Waller, who died in 1590, held two parts of the manor. She died without

without heirs, and it eſcheated to the crown. In 1612 this eſtate was poſſeſſed by Richard Wiſeman, Eſq. Carew Harvey Mildmay, Eſq., of Marks, was the laſt poſſeſſor.

The manor of Albins lies partly in this pariſh and partly in that of Naveſtocke. The manſion-houſe is in Stapleford, about half a mile north of the church, in the middle of a ſmall park. This manor and eſtate made part of the endowment of a chantry, founded in Wivenhoe church in 1413. Upon the ſuppreſſion of chantries, Henry VIII. in 1545 let the revenues of the manor to William Luter for twenty-one years, at the rent of 15*l.* 9*s.* per annum; and after that John Smith had it for the ſame term. But in 1548 Edward VI. granted it to Walter Cely and his heirs. His ſon, after levying a fine, conveyed the premiſes to George Wiſeman, Gent., and his wife, in 1569; others had it afterwards; and in 1578 William Fitche, Eſq., held it. In 1610 Sir John Woode, Knight, clerk of the ſignet, held it. Lady Magdalen Edmonds died in poſſeſſion of this eſtate in 1614: her huſband enjoyed it till 1639. He was employed in ſeveral important embaſſies by Queen Elizabeth and James I., and was appointed treaſurer of the houſehold. His daughters, coheireſſes, ſold the eſtate of Albins to Anthony Abdy, Eſq.: his heirs, in default of iſſue, loſe the eſtate, as it goes to the ſon of the Rev. Thomas Rutherford, D. D., who married a ſiſter of Sir Anthony Thomas Abdy; though there is a younger brother of the Abdy family.

The manſion-houſe of Albins is by ſome thought to have been built by Inigo Jones; but Horace Walpole, in his Lives of Painters, is of a different opinion. It was repaired by Sir James Abdy, Bart., who preſerved the old ſtyle of its building in his alterations.

Knowle, otherwiſe Knowle's Hill, is a mile ſouth-weſt of the church, and is a very pleaſant ſpot in the pariſh, where Henry Spencer, Biſhop of Norwich, had a ſeat. One piece of ground, which contains twelve acres, is ſtill named Biſhop's Moat, where there is a moat reported to have been paved with marble. Moſt of the lands of this eſtate lie in Lambourn. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it belonged to the Stonard family of Loughton. Amy, daughter and heireſs of Francis Stonard, was married to George Waldron, Eſq., and brought the eſtate to him. He died in 1690; ſhe in 1712. They had a ſon, who died early. Sir John Forteſcue Aland, lord of the capital manor of the neighbouring pariſh of Lambourn, having purchaſed this ſeat, made it his place of reſidence, and by various improvements made it a de-

lightful

lightful place. His lordſhip founded a free-ſchool here near Bonebridge for teaching poor children to read and write.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is of one pace with the chancel, and of equal width: adjoining to the chancel is a north chapel, called Abdy's, being the burial-place of that family. It was granted as an appendage of the manor to St. Edmund's-bury monaſtery, and the rectory continued in their gift till the ſuppreſſion, when it came to the crown. In 1540 Henry VIII. granted the advowſon, with the manor, to John Maynard, but only for a term of years; for it reverted to the crown, and has been in its gift ever ſince the year 1560. The rectory has a glebe of thirty acres. Stapleford Abbot is rated to the land-tax at 113*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*

STAPLEFORD TANY.

THIS pariſh derived its name from the family of Tany, who had eſtates in the county. In the Confeſſor's reign Godric was poſſeſſed of it. Sweyn of Eſſex and his under-tenant held it at the time of the ſurvey; and Robert Gernon had one hide here given by the Conqueror. It was held afterwards of the honour of Sweyn, lord of Raley, as it belonged to him.

Stapleford Tany hall, the manſion-houſe of this capital manor, ſtands a ſhort way from the church. In the reign of Henry II. and Richard I. Richard Fitz-William held of this houſe eight knights' fees, and this among the reſt. Margaret de Tany married to John de Drokensford, coming into poſſeſſion of it in 1317, he in her right preſented to the living. Their ſon Thomas dying in 1361, left Anne, his only daughter and heireſs, afterwards married to Thomas, heir and ſon of Sir Thomas Mandeville of Black Notley. Roger Spice preſented to the living from 1431 to 1452, being a ſon of Alice Mandeville, who had married Richard Spice, her ſecond huſband; Clement Spice, his ſon and heir, ſold the manor and advowſon to William Scott, Eſq. Elizabeth, a deſcendant of the Scott family, marrying Sir Edward Alleyn of Hatfield priory, brought him this eſtate. He was high-ſheriff of the county in 1629, and created a baronet. Arabella became a conſiderable heireſs upon the death of a deſcendant of Sir Edward, and poſſeſſed this eſtate, which ſhe ſold to Sir Edward Smyth, Bart., of Hill-hall; from whom it deſcended to his grandſon, Sir Charles Smyth.

The manor of Suttons was ſo named from its ſituation in the ſouthern part of the pariſh. The manſion ſtands about a mile ſouth-ſouth-weſt from the church near Piſſingford bridge. This manor appears to have been taken from the capital one of Stapleford-hall. Till 1474 no mention is made of it, when Conſtance, widow of Sir John Stafford, late Earl of Wiltſhire, held the manor: it was afterwards in the Luther family. John Luther died in 1567. Rebecca of this family was married to Florian Goebell, Eſq., of Walthamſtow. The eſtate was annexed in 1553 to the Dutchy of Lancaſter. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 868*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* On the common are a few dwellings for the poor without endowment.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace; but the chancel has a ſouth aiſle. The belfry, which is of timber, has a ſpire ſhingled. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor of Stapleford Tany-hall, and is in the gift of Sir Charles Smyth, Bart. It has a valuable glebe of 116 acres.

NAVESTOCK.

THE name of this pariſh is written in other places Naſingſtoke; it had the additional laſt ſyllable probably to diſtinguiſh it from the other Naſing. King Edgar gave an eſtate in this pariſh to the cathedral of St. Paul in London: it ſeems to be queſtioned whether this be true; but certainly St. Paul's cathedral had lands in this pariſh before the Conqueſt. They were taken away from it at one time, but William the Conqueror reſtored them to the church on the day of his coronation, exempting them as before from all tribute and taxes. At the time of the ſurvey they all belonged to the canons of St. Paul. In the time of Henry I. the pariſh was taxed for eight hides and other things. At the reformation Henry VIII. took this eſtate from the church under the form of an exchange, in the year 1544. After having continued in the Crown till 1553, Queen Mary I. granted the manor of Naveſtock, with the rectory and advowſon of the vicarage, to Sir Edward Waldegrave and his heirs. This very ancient family derived its name from the German word Wald, ſignifying power; and the latter ſyllable, which means governor. They flouriſhed before the Conqueſt, and were originally ſeated in Northamptonſhire, where they gave the name to the pariſh of Waldegrave. John de Waldegrave loſt his lands upon the Conqueror's invaſion; but having an only daughter, and meeting with a perſon of the ſame name in the ſervice of William, who was come from Ger-

many, they diſcovered a relationſhip; and the German promiſed to obtain him a reſtitution of his lands and a pardon from the Conqueror, if he would give him his daughter in marriage. This was accordingly performed. The pardon and grant of the lands, with King William's ſeal, remained with the lords of the manor till 1612, written in the old French language. This eſtate continues in the poſſeſſion of the preſent noble Earl Waldegrave, who ſucceeded to the title and eſtates upon the death of his elder brother, who was drowned whilſt bathing in the Thames at Eton, at which ſchool he was, and then only in his ninth year. Naveſtock-hall ſtands a ſhort way from the church. From this capital manor have ariſen ſome ſmall ones, called Boys-hall, Loſt-hall, and Slades.

Boys-hall ſtands a mile to the eaſt of the church. The firſt mention which is made of this manor was in the reign of Henry VII. Andrew Prior held it in 1507 of the dean and canons of St. Paul, London, as of their prebend of Naveſtock. In 1546 John Preſt, Eſq., held the manor. In 1564 William Bradbourne and Frances his wife, daughter of Preſt, levied a fine; and in 1565 the manor was conveyed to John Greene, Eſq., deſcended from a family of that name in Northamptonſhire. In 1752 Maurice Greene, the laſt poſſeſſor of that family, in whoſe hands it had remained all the time, ſold the eſtate to the Earl Waldegrave.

Loſt-hall is another manor here. John Sedley in 1581 held it of Frances Powlett, widow. It was purchaſed of Sir William Sedley, Bart., of Northfleet in Kent, by John Greene, Eſq., and has paſſed as the former to the Earl Waldegrave.

Slades is another manor in the pariſh. The earlieſt account of it is in 1525, when Henry Torrell, Eſq., held it of the dean and chapter of St. Paul: it afterwards belonged to the Howland family of Stone-hall in Little Canfield, and now to the Earl Waldegrave, who poſſeſſes the chief and beſt part of the pariſh. The eſtate conſiſts of two farms, and is not at preſent reckoned a manor. Here are ſome ſmall donations.

The church, dedicated to St. Thomas, is ſufficiently large, and conſiſts of a body and ſouth aiſle. It has a wooden ſpire. The great tithes of this pariſh were appropriated to the dean and chapter of St. Paul, and a vicarage inſtituted, which continued in their collation till 1544, when Henry VIII. took both church and manor from them. Queen Mary granted them to Sir Edward Waldegrave in 1553. The eccleſiaſtical juriſdiction, however, remained in the dean and chapter, who are ordinaries of the place, and give inſtitution and induction to the vicarage. John Barnet,

Biſhop of Bath and Wells, granted to the vicar of this church and his ſucceſſors nine acres of arable land, two acres and one rood of meadow, and 1*s.* yearly rent in this pariſh. The rectory and the advowſon of the vicarage were given with the other poſſeſſions to Trinity College, Oxford, by Sir Thomas Pope, their founder, in 1555. Some years ſince the vicarage was amply endowed by the College on theſe conditions: the vicar for the time being is the leſſee for the great tithes, paying to the College a ſmall quit-rent, and a fine certain of 60*l.* per annum.

On Naveſtock common is an old entrenchment, and near it runs a high bank with a ditch on each ſide.

The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 1703*l.* 3*s.*

KELVEDON HATCH.

THERE are two pariſhes of this name in the county of Eſſex; the laſt addition of Hatch, which ſignifies a low gate, is to diſtinguiſh it from Kelvedon Eaſterford in the hundred of Witham. The Saxon derivation of the word means, cold and hill; but Dr. Stukeley thinks it to be moſt probably taken from the Celtic, which ſignifies myſterious; thus, a myſterious hill. In the time of the Saxons the lands in this pariſh belonged to Ailric, a freeman, and Leuena: St. Peter's at Weſtminſter, after the Conqueſt, held one manor and two hides here; Odo, Biſhop of Bayeux, and his tenant, half a hide and twenty acres; and Hamo Dapifer, one hide and forty-five acres, and one manor. The lands were afterwards divided into the two manors of Germins or Jermains, and of Miles. Ailric gave his ſhare to the abbey of St. Peter, a grant which the Confeſſor confirmed. The abbot and monks continued lords paramount till after the year 1532. This was the part which bore the name of Germains or Jermayns. The rectory was appendant to the manor; in 1372 Sir Roger de Kirketon and others held the manor and advowſon. From 1383 to 1457 it was in the family of Hawes; and from 1464 to 1511 it was in the Bowles family. John Wright, Gent., had it from 1547, and it continued in his deſcendants. About 1444 Henry Chaderton held the manor of Germains. In 1524 Henry Torrell, Eſq., held this manor of John Bowles. Kelvedon-hall ſtands near the weſt end of the church.

Miles is another manor here. The manſion-houſe ſtands about a mile north of the church. No mention is made of this manor under the preſent name in the ancient

records till the latter end of Henry VII.'s reign, when Andrew Prior, who died in 1507, held it of the dean and chapter of St. Paul in London, as of their prebend of Naveſtock. John Preſt, Eſq., in 1546, held it. Alice, wife of Robert Blackwall, Eſq., to whom ſhe had been remarried after the death of her huſband John Preſt, held the manor of Sir Edward Waldegrave. The eſtate was afterwards in Richard and Anthony Luther, Eſqrs., whoſe epitaphs deſcribe them as two brothers, ſo mutually attached, that they lived together for forty years without any houſekeeping account between them: they died in 1627. The firſt mention which is made of this family is about the latter end of Henry VIII.'s reign, when William Luter, for ſo the name was written, had a leaſe from the crown of the manor of Albins. Mr. R. Luther, who gave up the eſtate to his ſon upon his marriage, much enlarged and beautified the houſe.

Bryces is a good old houſe, in the pariſh, near Naveſtock common, above a mile ſouth-eaſt from the church. It took its name from Thomas Bryce, citizen and mercer of London, who built it in 1498. He continued in poſſeſſion of it till 1515, when it was ſold to Sir John Allen, alderman of London, who, in 1528, diſpoſed of it to John Catchmaid: the latter aſſigned it to Edward Northey, Gent., attorney at law. About 1548, Northey conveyed it to Richard Pettus, of an ancient family in Norfolk. Ralph Pettus, who was a great loyaliſt during the civil wars in the ſeventeenth century, was obliged to mortgage the eſtate, which he could never redeem. It has been for ſome time in the Glaſſcock family. Waltham Abbey had lands here, called Prior's Lands. There are other lands in the pariſh.

The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, conſiſts of a body and ſouth aiſle. The rectory has been always appendant to the capital manor of Kelvedon Hatch, and is in the Wright family. The living is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 12*l.*

STONDON, OR STANDON MARCI.

STONDON derived its name from its ſituation, as it ſtands on a ſtony hill, and its addition of Marci came from its ancient lords the Merks, who had here ſeveral eſtates. This place is not mentioned in Domeſday-book, and was therefore included in ſome neighbouring pariſh; probably in that of Ongar, where the Merks family had property. Here is only one manor, that of Stondon-hall; the manſion-houſe

houſe of which ſtands a ſhort way north of the church. The Spigurnell family were the next ancient owners. It came then into a branch of the Gobyon family, by the marriage of Joan, an heireſs, with William Gobyon: ſhe preſented to the living in her own right from 1369 to 1385, and John and William Gobyon from 1391 to 1410. Sir John Hende, a man of immenſe property, and lord mayor of London, next poſſeſſed the eſtate; his widow preſented in her own right in 1433. Joan, heireſs of the eſtate, was married, in 1462, to Walter Writell, Eſq., of Bobbingworth. The eſtate, about 1510, by what means it is difficult to aſcertain, whether by gift or ſettlement, next came into the Belknapp family. In 1521, Sir Edward Belknapp held the manor. His heirs were, his ſiſter Anne, wife of Robert Wootton, of Bocton Malherb; Mary, widow of Gerard Dannett, Eſq.; Alice, wife of William Shelley; and Anthony Cooke, Eſq., ſon of Elizabeth his third ſiſter. William Shelley had the eſtate, and preſented to the living in 1538. In 1604, king James I. granted this manor to John Carill, Eſq. It was next in a branch of the Riche family, deſcended from Richard Riche, ſheriff of London in 1441. It remained with them till 1706, when it was purchaſed by Richard How, Eſq.; he died in 1748, and, by will, gave this manor and eſtate to William Taylor, Eſq., of Great Hadham.

Stondon-place, the ſeat of the late John How, Eſq., is about half a mile ſouth-ſouth-eaſt of the church. There are other lands in the pariſh. Here are two farms belonging to Emanuel and Chriſt's colleges, Cambridge. Here are alſo ſome ſmall benefactions, among which is a houſe and land, rented at 2*l.* 10*s.* per annum, given to buy bell-ropes. In Domeſday-book was a parcel of land in Stondon pariſh, called Plumptons, which Ralph Peverell held.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is of one pace with the chancel. It has a ſhingled ſpire, and contains three bells. The rectory has been uſually appendant to the manor. The tithes of Mark's manor, in Roding, belong to this rectory, where was formerly a chapel, named Capella de Roothing Marci; to which the rectors of Stondon have been ſometimes inſtituted with this church. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 438*l.*, and the living is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* but is not diſcharged.

Barstable Hundred.

THIS hundred is bounded on the north-weſt by Ongar hundred; on the north by Chelmsford hundred; by part of Chelmsford hundred and Rochford hundred on the eaſt; on the weſt by Chafford hundred; and on the ſouth by the river Thames. It is about fifteen miles and a half long in its greateſt extent, from north to ſouth: and in its wideſt part, from eaſt to weſt, about eleven miles and a half. A point in the north-weſt ſtretches between Chafford and Chelmsford hundreds, which is croſſed by the great London road; and if this is taken in the meaſure, it muſt be reckoned about ſeventeen miles long.

The name of this hundred is written in old records Barſtaple, and in Domeſday-book, Berdeſtapla. It is not eaſy to aſcertain from whence it is derived. It appears, however, to be taken from the place now called Barſtable-hall, in Langdon and Baſildon, where, according to tradition, formerly ſtood a town; and which, being near the centre of the hundred, was the moſt convenient place for holding courts, and tranſacting all affairs of a public nature. The king is ſeiſed in fee of this hundred, and uſed to grant the cuſtody and bailiwick of it by patent for life; but lately only for a term of years. Robert de Sutton, in 1210, enjoyed it, and had it alſo in 1224, for a fee farm of 18*l.* He gave it to William Bigod, ſon of Hugh Earl of Norfolk, who married his daughter Margaret. In 1263, Eleanor queen of Henry III. poſſeſſed it; William Gifford and Joan his wife in 1265; Edmund of Woodſtock, third ſon of Edward I., Edmund viſcount Beaumont, John Plantagenet Earl of Kent, ſecond ſon of Edmund of Woodſtock, in 1352; Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, in 1361; Joan, the Fair Maid of Kent, afterwards wife to Edward the Black Prince, and mother of king Richard II., had it in 1385; Thomas de Holland, his ſon, in 1396; Sir Roger Ree in 1475, and William Ree next. In 1678 it was granted to William Scroggs, Eſq., for forty-one years, if he ſhould live ſo long; and, in 1707, to Sir John Sparrow, Knt., at the yearly fee of 6*s.* 8*d.*

The hundred is within the archdeaconry of Eſſex. It contains thirty-two pariſhes:—Doddinghurſt, Shenfield, Hutton, Burghſted Great, Burghſted Little, Ramſden Crays, Ramſden Belhouſe, Downham, Horndon Eaſt, Horndon Weſt with Gingralph, Horndon on the Hill, Dunton, Bulvan, Orſet, Little Thurrock, Chadwell, Tilbury Weſt, Tilbury Eaſt, Mucking, Stanford le Hope, Coringham, Fobbing, Langdon

Langdon Hills, Langdon with Baſildon, Newendon, Wickford, Pitſey, Buers Gifford, Bemfleet North, Bemfleet South, Thunderſley, and Canvey Iſland.

DODDINGHURST.

DODDINGHURST is the north-weſt point of this hundred, adjoining to that of Ongar immediately preceding. Dr. Stukeley derives the name from the Britiſh word which ſignifies a wizard, or wiſe man, as they might call a Druid. Some have gone ſo far as to ſuppoſe that the Saxons took it from Dodona, a city of Epirus, near which ſtood a wood of oaks, ſacred to Jupiter: this is however, perhaps, too far-fetched. The word hurſt ſignifies wood. In the reign of the Confeſſor, Aluric was poſſeſſed of the pariſh; which, at the time of the ſurvey, was held by Robert ſon of Corbutio, and his tenant Gerard. It has two manors; that of Doddinghurſt, and Doddinghurſt-place, otherwiſe Kenſingtons.

Doddinghurſt-hall, the manſion-houſe of this pariſh, is on the ſouth ſide of the church. This manor came into the noble family of De Vere, as part of their earldom of Oxford. John, the twelfth earl, forfeited it in 1461, with his eldeſt ſon; both being beheaded for their adherence to the houſe of Lancaſter. Edward IV. gave it to his brother Richard, Duke of York. But Henry VII. reſtored it to the ſecond ſon, John thirteenth Earl of Oxford. This family produced a ſucceſſion of twenty earls. Edward, the laſt earl, having ſquandered away his eſtates, the manor of Doddinghurſt was ſold in 1579, with other lands here, to Richard Stonely, Eſq., who ſuffered a recovery of them, with the advowſon of the church, the May following. But in 1599 he ſold them both to Thomas Glaſſcock, who died in poſſeſſion of them in 1623, and one hundred and eighty acres of demeſne lands. He left one daughter his ſole heir, married to Thomas Luther, Eſq., a branch of the family of Miles and Stapleford Tany, in this county. Upon his death the eſtate came to his wife, who left it to her niece Miſs Surman. With this manor a parcel of land is incorporated, of about ſixty acres, which Orbert Daggeworth, in 1259, held of the king of the honour of Rayley, in ſocage, by the ſervice of three arrows, feathered with eagles' feathers, bound round with gold thread. His ſon John Daggeworth ſold them to Thomas de Vere, who held them, by the ſame ſervice, in 1304.

Doddinghurſt-place, otherwiſe Kenſingtons, is the other manor in this pariſh. The manſion-houſe ſtands about half a mile north-weſt from the church, in a bottom.

bottom. It is independent of Doddinghurſt-hall; but it does not appear when it was taken and ſeparated from that manor. Neither is there any account of its owners, till about the reign of queen Elizabeth. It then belonged to Richard Stonely, and by the marriage of one of his daughters it came to —— Dawtrey, an old family, ſeated in Suſſex ſince the Conqueſt. The name is Norman, in Latin De Altâ Ripâ, tranſlated De Haut Rey. The eſtates of William Dawtrey, who was ſheriff for the county in 1736, and died unmarried, came to his nephew, Richard Luther, Eſq., of Miles.

Groves is another reputed manor. Henry VII. in 1503, granted licence to Sir Thomas Bourchier to give to the chauntry of Grace church, London, the manor of Groves, and other lands in Doddinghurſt.

Convers is alſo called a manor in this pariſh. Winſtar Browne poſſeſſed it in 1567. Edward Page held it in 1611, of Sir Thomas Joſlyn. This manor, or lands, ſeems either to have given or taken their name from a family ſurnamed Convers, one of whom was buried at Stapleford Abbots, in 1599. A meſſuage, lands, and tenements, called Wyſtrefields, or Weſtridgefields, in this pariſh, belonging to the monaſtery of Edingdon, in Wiltſhire, were granted by Henry VIII., in 1540, to William Barners and Walter Farre. There are other lands in this pariſh. Doddinghurſt Liſt is part of South Weald and of Kelvedon Hatch, conſiſting of about four hundred acres, which pays conſtable's rates to Doddinghurſt, but no other rates. Weald, Kelvedon, and Doddinghurſt, are in three different hundreds.

The church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is ſmall, of one pace with the chancel. The rectory was always appendant to the manor here; and was a long time in the gift of the noble family of De Vere; then of Richard Stonely; of Glaſſcock; of Butler; of Harris; and Luther; in which laſt family it continued, or in their aſſigns. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 1328*l.* The living, which is not diſcharged, is valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

SHENFIELD.

SHENFIELD is the other pariſh which lies to the north-weſt point of this hundred; on the great road to London, between Mountneſſing and Brentwood. Some of its houſes ſtand in the eaſt of Brentwood town, from which it is divided by the road leading from Billericay to Ongar. It takes its name from two Saxon words, which ſignify

ſignify a pleaſant field. Some Roman lares were dug up here about forty years ſince; which Mr. Jackſon, of Warley Place, obtained. In the reign of the Confeſſor, Bodd, a freeman, enjoyed this pariſh; but, at the time of the ſurvey, it was held by Euſtace Earl of Boulogne. It was afterwards divided into two manors, Shenfield-hall and Fitzwalters.

Shenfield-hall ſtands near the church. It is not aſcertained who were the immediate ſucceſſors of Euſtace Earl of Boulogne; but the earlieſt poſſeſſor on record is Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex. At the time of his death, in 1298, he held this manor of the king in capite of the honour of Mandeville, with the advowſon of the church. It came, in all probability, into the family upon the marriage of Henry de Bohun Earl of Hereford, with Maud heireſs of the houſe of Mandeville. Eleanor, eldeſt daughter of Humphrey, and his heir, brought it in marriage to her huſband, Thomas de Woodſtock, ſixth ſon of king Edward III., who poſſeſſed it at the time of his violent death, in September 1397. He left three daughters: Anne; Joan, who was married to Gilbert Lord Talbot, who had 73*s.* 4*d.* per ann. out of this manor; and Iſabel, a nun. Joan, dying in 1399, left one daughter, but ſhe ſurviving her mother a very ſhort time, the whole inheritance came to her eldeſt ſiſter, who married three huſbands, Thomas and Edmund Lords Stafford; the latter had it at his death in 1403. Her third huſband, Sir William Bourchier, enjoyed it afterwards, for he preſented to the living in 1408. Her ſon, Humphrey Stafford Duke of Buckingham, in all probability ſucceeded her; and, upon his being killed in the battle of Northampton, in 1460, the eſtate was ſeized by king Edward IV., who ſettled it upon his queen, Elizabeth; and ſhe preſented to the rectory till 1495. It remained in the crown till Henry VIII., Edward VI., or queen Mary, granted it away. It afterwards continued for ſome time in private hands. Humphrey Tyrrell preſented in 1545, Francis Rylie in 1559, William Walton in 1562, and Thomas Parker in 1567 and 1575. But before the year 1559, the manor had been granted to the Lucas family; for John Lucas, Eſq., in 1556, held the manor. This family obtained a barony in 1644, in the perſon of John Lucas, Eſq., Baron Lucas of Shenfield, with limitation to two brothers. His daughter inherited, there being no male iſſue ſurviving. She was created Baroneſs Lucas, by Charles II., of Crudwell, in Wiltſhire, and brought the eſtate in marriage to Anthony Earl of Kent, who left a ſon and heir Henry, created, in 1706, Marquis and Earl of Harold, and afterwards Duke of

Kent. He had no heirs; and ſettled the eſtate upon Jemima, his grand-daughter, married to Viſcount Glenorchy, heir apparent to the Earl of Bredalbane, in Scotland. She was married afterwards to the Earl of Hardwicke.

The manor of Fitzwalters was ſo called from the noble family of Fitzwalter, who poſſeſſed it. It was taken from the capital manor of the Earl of Boulogne, who reſided in this pariſh. The manſion ſtands about a mile and a quarter north-eaſt from the church, by the ſide of a ſtream, on the right hand ſide of the road from Ingateſtone to Brentwood. It is called the Round-houſe; its form is very ſingular, being octagonal, and having all its chimnies in the middle. In 1301, Robert Lord Fitzwalter had licence to make a park, by encloſing his wood at Shenfield, within the foreſt of Eſſex. From this family it came to Ellena wife of Robert Knyvett, who died in 1435; ſhe held it in fee tail of the king, in capite. John Morecroft, Eſq., had it in the ſeventeenth century; and is ſaid to have built the houſe after an Italian model. In the beginning of the laſt century it belonged to Sir Thomas Ambroſe, Knt., brewer, and ſheriff of London in 1719. It is now in the poſſeſſion of —— Wright, Eſq., an eminent banker, who reſides here continually.

Shenfield-place is a capital meſſuage on the north ſide of the London road, which for ſeveral years has belonged to the Vaughan family. There are other lands in this pariſh. In Edward II.'s reign, John Baſſet had licence to encloſe the wood of Shenfield, within the foreſt of Eſſex.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and conſiſts of a body and north aiſle; and the chancel has a north chapel. At the weſt end is a wooden ſpire of conſiderable height. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor of Shenfield-hall. The living is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

HOTON, OR HUTTON.

THIS place ſtands eaſt of Shenfield. The old Saxon name was How, or Hill, from which, with the other addition, which means town or village, the preſent name originated. It belonged, in the Confeſſor's reign, to one Got, a freeman. William the Conqueror, taking it from him, made it part of the endowment of his abbey of Battel, in Suſſex. It continued in that monaſtery till the ſuppreſſion.

Henry

Henry VIII., in 1539, granted the manor, with the rectory, to Sir Thomas D'Arcy and his heirs. Sir Thomas, in the ſame year, alienated it to Sir Richard Riche. It came from that family to Jerome Weſton, Eſq., who ſoon after diſpoſed of it to the White family, of the neighbouring pariſh. Thomas Cory, Eſq., of Great Franſham, in Norfolk, purchaſed it of that family, after it had remained with them ſome time. He died in 1656, and left one daughter, married to John Hayward, Eſq. The next poſſeſſor was Mr. William Hatherly, a tailor, of London, whoſe wife was niece to Mr. Hayward, and brought him this eſtate. It was from them ſold to Robert Surnam, Eſq., caſhier of the South Sea Company, for the ſum of 15,200*l.* The Company ſold it, upon Mr. Surnam's forfeiture, for 12,060*l.*, to Henry Hall, Eſq., of Upton. Hutton-hall ſtands on the north ſide of the church. George White, Eſq., gave nine acres for the repairs of the church, and to the poor.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, conſiſts of a body and two aiſles, but the chancel is only of one pace. It has a ſpired ſteeple, and is very neat. The rectory, or great tithes, belonged to Battel abbey till the diſſolution, and have ſince paſſed with the manor. But the advowſon of the vicarage has been, ſince 1325, in the dean and chapter of St. Paul. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 758*l.* The living is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 8*l.*

BURGHSTED, OR BURSTED.

THE two contiguous pariſhes of Burghſted lie to the eaſt of the three laſt places, diſtinguiſhed by the name of Great and Little. It is derived from a Saxon word, and means a place of retirement, a town, or tower, and the latter ſyllable a place. Camden once ſuppoſed it to be the Cæſaromagus mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus. Here was undoubtedly a Roman villa, or ſtation; for at Bluntſwall, in this pariſh, are earth-works, the remains of a rampart or ditch, containing about four acres, one part of which was encloſed round, and in it were mounts artificially raiſed, but now chiefly levelled. In 1724, in digging for gravel in a field, on a high hill, near Billericay, after having ſunk about three feet, there appeared a large bed of black earth or aſhes, in which were mixed a quantity of pieces of earthen veſſels of different kinds and colours, of white, red, and dark brown. Nothing has been diſcovered entire, but the pieces appeared to be fragments of pateræ, urns, &c. In one part was a place made like an oven, of hard clay. There is no clay within three miles

of the place. There have been found here ſeveral Roman coins of copper, and two of ſilver; one of Trajan and another of Hadrian.

Great Burghſted is the largeſt of the two pariſhes; the lordſhip of which belonged to Ingar, a Saxon thane, in the time of Edward the Confeſſor; William the Conqueror having taken it from him, gave it to his half-brother Odo, Biſhop of Bayeux. This was the capital manor of Odo, of whom it may not be improper to ſay a few words, as he has been ſo frequently ſpoken of before. After Arlotta had brought forth to Robert, ſixth Duke of Normandy, his natural ſon William conqueror of England, ſhe married a Norman gentleman, named Herluiner, by whom ſhe had Odo, or Eudo. He being a man of good underſtanding was much eſteemed by his brother, who appointed him Biſhop of Bayeux. He attended him at the battle of Haſtings. After the victory his honours ſhowered upon him. He received 39 lordſhips in this county, and 216 over the kingdom. Not ſatisfied with this immenſe wealth, but ſtill aſpiring to higher honours, he committed heavy extortions, and prepared to go to Rome with all his treaſures in order to obtain the popedom; but the Conqueror, who had appointed him governor of England during his abſence, arreſted him in the Iſle of Wight, and kept him priſoner in Normandy during the remainder of his reign; afterwards entering into a plot againſt William Rufus in 1088, he was baniſhed the kingdom, and deprived of all his poſſeſſions. The lordſhip becoming veſted in the crown, no account of it is to be met with; but it appears to have been granted to the Mareſchalls, Earls of Pembroke. In 1393 Thomas Earl of Stafford had half a fee in Great Burghſted, and previous to that date the abbot of Stratford had moſt of the lands of the pariſh. John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, at the time of his death, had in 1433 two fees and a half in Burghſted.

Theſe lands were divided into three manors, Great Burghſted, otherwiſe Burghſted Grange, Weſthouſe, and Bluntſwall.

Burghſted Grange manſion-houſe ſtands above half a mile eaſt from the church towards Ramſden Cray: it is called Grange, becauſe it was one of the barns of the Ciſtercian abbey of Stratford Langthorne. They had the chief part of the lands of the pariſh, but the names of the donors of many of them are not known. Their founder, William de Montfichet, had no lands here to give them. Richard II. was a benefactor; beſides that he removed the monks who had ſettled here, and rebuilt their abbey at Stratford; and they had 60 acres given them by John Henny. William Langdich in 1358 granted them one meſſuage, 240 acres of arable, 15 of meadow, and 90 of

paſture in Great Burghſted, held of the abbey; and the abbey held them under the Earl of Glouceſter. Henry III. in 1253, and Edward I. in 1285, granted the abbot and monks a market and fair at Burghſted; and Edward IV. in 1476 granted a market and two fairs at Billericay. Such were the grants made to Stratford abbey in this pariſh. Several manors, with the rectory and advowſon of the vicarage, which alſo belonged to Stratford abbey, were granted by Henry VIII. in 1539 to Sir Richard Rich, who had a confirming grant from King Edward VI.: he alienated the manor in 1551, with the rectory and advowſon of the vicarage, to Thomas Marſhe. Richard Lord Rich poſſeſſed them in 1566. In 1600 Sir Edwin Rich ſold them to Sir John Petre, Knight, whoſe ſon was made Baron of Writtle; and from him they deſcended to Lord Petre.

The manor of Weſthouſe belonged to Stratford abbey, and was granted to Sir Richard Rich, who in 1540 alienated it to Walter Farre and others. It came afterwards into the family of Lumley, and was ſome years ſince ſold to Guy's Hoſpital by Sir James Lumley's truſtees. Sir Martin Lumley, or his father, built here; but the houſe was left unfiniſhed and fell into decay. It ſtood about a half a mile weſt of the church.

The manor of Bluntſwall was ſo named from the ancient family of Blunt. Walls was added for the ſake of diſtinction, being taken from the walls, or earth-work, which ſtill partly remain here. The houſe ſtands about a mile and half north-weſt of the church. A court is kept here, but no copyholders. This eſtate belonged to the priory of Mountneſſing. In 1525 it was granted to Cardinal Wolſey for the endowment of his two colleges. Upon his forfeiture the crown poſſeſſed it, and Henry VIII. in 1530 gave it to Sir Richard Page for his life. After his death Henry ſold it to Sir William Petre in 1554 and his heirs. It has ever ſince continued in that noble family. It pays neither great nor ſmall tithes.

Billerca is a hamlet in Great Burghſted, but of ſuch conſiderable ſize as to be a market-town; and indeed the only one in the hundred, except the ſmall town of Horndon on the Hill: it is now called Billericay, and ſtands about a mile and half north of the pariſh church. The market is on Tueſdays; and here are two fairs, July 22d and October 7th. The name is not eaſily to be accounted for. The firſt mention which is made of it is in 1343, when Thomas Malegreffe is recorded to have held in Burghſted, in the hamlet of Billericay, then Beleuca, of the Earl of Hereford, as of his manor of Fobbyng, 4*s.* 6*d.* rent by ſervice of 4*s.* rent per annum,

and

and ſuit of court. The name of Beleuca was probably derived from the old word Baleuga, or Banleuga, denoting a territory or precinct round a borough or manor, in French Banlieu; but how it was changed into Billericay, which name it bore in 1395, is not eaſy to ſay.

The town is very pleaſantly ſituated, and is a great thoroughfare to Horndon on the Hill, Eaſt Tilbury, and Graveſend: between Tilbury and Graveſend is ſuppoſed to be the place where the Emperor Claudius forded or croſſed the Thames. Anciently there was a chapel here, which ſerved as a chantry. It was probably of two hundred years ſtanding, and was built by the Sulyards of Fleming, in the pariſh of Runwell. It is a long brick building in the ſtreet, where the vicar of Great Burghſted officiates in the afternoon on a Sunday, or elſe a chaplain choſen by the inhabitants. It was probably erected about 1345 for the convenience of the pariſhioners of Billericay, when the weſtern part of the hamlet was inundated by the waters in the winter time. King Edward VI. ſold the chapel, with the chantry, to Mr. Tyrell and his heirs; and he keeping the land, ſold the chapel again to the inhabitants of Billericay, which was in the hands of truſtees for their uſe; they ſurrendered it for conſecration to the Biſhop of London in 1693, when he conſecrated it, and dedicated it to St. Mary Magdalen. There are other eſtates in the pariſh. The Rev. Mr. Baylye, rector of North Bemfleet, left an eſtate of 20*l.* per annum for the education of ten poor children of this town. Mr. Francis Baylye was rector in 1654.

The church conſiſts of a body and two aiſles, and the chancel has a north chapel. The ſteeple, which has a leaded ſpire, contains five bells. The rectory of the pariſh belonged to the abbey of Stratford Langthorne, being appropriated to them. They had alſo the advowſon of the vicarage, to which they preſented till the diſſolution: then it came into the families of Riche and Petre. This pariſh, with the hamlet of Billericay, is rated to the land-tax at 1968*l.* The living is not diſcharged, and is valued at 17*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books, and is united with Billericay.

LITTLE BURGHSTED.

THIS pariſh adjoins, and lies to the ſouth-weſt of the other; on which account it is ſometimes called Weſt Burghſted. Godwin was lord of this pariſh in the reign of he Confeſſor, At the time of the ſurvey, it was the Biſhop of London's fee, which meant

meant his eſtate. The capital manor here is ſtill in the Biſhop of London: but Odo having it within his graſp, out of it were erected two more manors, which extend into Dunton, where that mitred plunderer carried them. From his encroachments were erected the manors of Whitehall, and of St. Margarets, with Southfields.

The manor of Whitehall had a manſion-houſe, which is now fallen down; the out-houſes remain, where the court is kept. This manor was in the family of Helion as early as the time of Henry II. In 1301 Gilbert de St. Owen held one knight's fee there. In 1331 Humphry de Waleden held it; and Humphrey de Bohun in 1372; John Pickenham in 1377. From Edward IV.th's reign this manor has been in the Tyrell family.

St. Margaret's is another manor in this pariſh. On the oppoſite ſide of the lane, in which ſtands the houſe belonging to St. Margaret, there is another houſe belonging to an eſtate called Southfields. Whitehall, St. Margaret's, and Southfields, belong to the heirs of the late Sir John Tyrell, Bart.

The family of Walton have been ſeveral years ſeated in this pariſh. There are other lands here, and three alms-houſes. The church ſtands in an obſcure ſituation, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a ſmall ſpire. The rectory has always been in the collation of the Biſhops of London. It has a glebe of about 32 acres. The Rev. William Dunbar, late rector of the pariſh, left 20*l.* a year to the ſucceeding rectors, payable out of an eſtate called Braintrees, near Braintree. Little Burghſted is rated to the land-tax at 520*l.* The living is not diſcharged, and is valued at 12*l.* in the king's books.

RAMSDEN.

RAMSDEN is derived from two Saxon words, which ſignify ram and valley. Two contiguous pariſhes of the ſame name join the Burghſteds to the north-eaſt; known at the time of the Norman ſurvey by the general appellation of Ramſden; but afterwards diſtinguiſhed by the ſurname of their ancient poſſeſſors, the families of Cray and Belhouſe.

Ramſden Cray lies neareſt to Burghſted. In the reign of the Confeſſor part of it belonged to two freemen, and to Siric another. At the ſurvey, Odo Biſhop of Bayeux, and Ralph, brother of Ilger, poſſeſſed them. There are two manors in the pariſh; that of Ramſden Cray, and that of Thyled-hall or Thill-hall.

The

The manor of Ramſden Cray has a manſion-houſe, which lies down in a bottom on the ſouth ſide of the church. This belonged to Odo. The earlieſt mention of it is in Henry III.d's reign. In 1262 Simon de Crei held it; John de Liſton in 1363. Thomas de Liſton granted it to Sir Thomas Tyrrell of Eaſt Horndon, with the advowſon of the church. From the time of Edward IV. the Tyrells preſented to the living till 1630. Sir John Tyrell alienated them to William Walter, Eſq., of Little Burghſted, who preſented in 1630. About the beginning of the eighteenth century William Walton, Eſq., elder brother of the admiral, ſold the eſtate to Richard Earl of Scarborough; and he in 1718 ſold it for 7200*l.* to John Hopkins, Eſq.

The manor of Thyled-hall ſeems to be the part which belonged to Ralph Ilger at the time of the ſurvey. Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, had it in 1372. Under this family it was held by John de Vere, Earl of Oxford. Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March, held it in 1398; and Hans de Chevre held it under him: it has ſince paſſed with the other manor and demeſnes to the family of Tyrell, to that of Walter, and Hopkins. There are other lands here.

The church is of one pace with the chancel, and the whole tiled. The belfry has a ſhingled ſpire on the top. The rectory is appendant on the manor. The pariſh is laid to the land-tax at 416*l.* The living is valued at 20*l.* in the king's books, and is not diſcharged.

RAMSDEN BELHOUSE.

THIS pariſh lies north-eaſt of the laſt, and had the name of Belhouſe given to it by way of diſtinction from its ancient lords of that name. At the time of the ſurvey the Biſhop of London and Robert Gernon were poſſeſſed of the lands of this pariſh. In the Confeſſor's reign one part had belonged to Godric, and Gernon's to three freemen. Theſe lands were afterwards divided into the manors of Ramſden Belhouſe, and of Ramſden Barrington or Barnton.

The manor of Ramſden Belhouſe has a manſion-houſe, ſtanding a ſhort way north-weſt from the church. This is the part which belonged to the Biſhop of London. Reinfred de Bruier was poſſeſſed of it about the reign of Henry II. In 1200 King John confirmed all the lands which Reinfred held in Eſſex to Richard de Belhus. The families De Legne and De Wateville had an intereſt in the capital manor of the pariſh, which they made over to the Belhouſe family. Sir Thomas de Belhouſe,

Belhouſe, who died in 1375 without iſſue, had a ſiſter, who married John Caſtlelayn, Eſq., and had by him Margaret, an only daughter and heireſs, who brought the eſtates to Robert Knyvett, Eſq., in marriage, ſecond ſon of Sir John Knyvett, lord chancellor, who held the manor of the Biſhop of London. The Clopton family had it next from marriage. The Knyvett family preſented to the living from 1388 to 1498, and the Clopton family from 1549 to 1616, which proves how long they were in poſſeſſion of the capital manor. Sir Jacob Gerrard, Knight, purchaſed them of William Clopton, Eſq.; he was created a baronet in 1662. They deſcended from this family to Sir Jacob Gerrard Downing, Bart.

The manor of Ramſden Barrington, or Barnton, is the other manor of the pariſh, which at the time of the ſurvey belonged to Gernon. It took the additional name of Barrington from Sir Nicholas Barrington of Barrington-hall in Hatfield Broad Oak. He had it in marriage with Alice, daughter of Sir Richard de Belhouſe. From the Barringtons it came into the noble family of Bohun. Upon a diviſion of the eſtates between Anne, who had married firſt, Thomas, then, Edward Lord Stafford, and afterwards William Bourchier Earl of Eu, by whom ſhe had Henry Earl of Eſſex; and King Henry V., ſon of Mary, the daughter and heireſs of Thomas de Woodſtock; the eſtate fell to the ſhare of Anne: upon which it was diſunited from the dutchy of Lancaſter, to which it had been annexed by Henry V. in 1414. Henry Bourchier, Earl of Eſſex, died in poſſeſſion of this eſtate in 1483, holding it of the Biſhop of London. Anne, daughter of Henry Earl of Eſſex, marrying in 1541 Sir William Parr, created Earl of Eſſex and Marquis of Northampton, dying without iſſue, poſſeſſed this manor. Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrars of Chartley, being heir to Anne, Queen Elizabeth granted him in 1570 this eſtate. He ſoon after ſold it to Edmund Tyrell, Eſq., of Beeches in Rawreth. He left four coheirs, among whom Margaret, married to Sir Francis Fitch, had the eſtate. In 1635 his deſcendant ſold it to Sir Edmund Wright, Alderman of London, of whom Sir Thomas Check bought it in 1640. It has ſince remained in his family, and deſcended to Thomas Archer, Eſq.; in right of his wife he was afterwards Lord Archer.

In this manor was a free chapel, called Barnton chapel, near Numph's Green. It is now demoliſhed, and a cottage built there. There was a diſpute here about the tithes belonging to the lords of Barnton between the patron of Ramſden Belhouſe and that of Barnton chapel. It was decided that the rector of the chapel ſhould

have tithes from the lands of the lord's demeſnes, and the rector of the church from thoſe of the cuſtomary tenants. There are other lands in the pariſh.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, ſtands upon low ground, and is of one pace with the chancel. The ſteeple has a ſpire. The rectory was appendant to the capital manor of Ramſden Belhouſe, but has been alienated from it for ſome years paſt. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 763*l.* The living is valued at 14*l.*, and is not diſcharged.

DOWNHAM.

THIS pariſh is bounded by Ramſden Belhouſe on the weſt, and on the north and eaſt by the hundred of Chelmsford. The name is taken from the two Saxon words Dan and Ham, a village on a hill. It is not found in Domeſday-book; for it was anciently a part of Ramſden Belhouſe, and was the land which Anſchetil held of Gernon: it was alſo a ſoke or particular juriſdiction in 1209. By ſoke is meant a liberty ſubject to ſome lord by ſpecial privilege, exempt from taxes, as was the city of London. In this pariſh are three lordſhips: the manor of Downham, Berne-hall, and Tremnals or Hemnals.

The manor of Downham has a houſe called Downham-hall, which lies a ſhort way ſouth-eaſt of the church in a bottom. It belonged to a family named De Ramſden in the reign of King John, or the beginning of Henry II., and to William de Mandeville, Earl of Eſſex. It ſoon after came into the noble family of De Vere, Earls of Oxford. It continued with them till the ſeventeenth earl, who ſquandering away his property, ſold it to Henry Attflow, Gent., ſon and heir of Edward Attflow, M. D., who died in poſſeſſion of the manor in 1622, and the advowſon of the church. Sir William Andrew, by marriage, poſſeſſed the eſtate, and his ſon ſold it in 1698 to Francis Platt, Eſq., of the Victualling-office. His ſiſters, coheireſſes, ſold it to Oſmond Beauvoir, Eſq., of Balms in Hackney.

The manor of Berne-hall is that which occurs in Domeſday-book under Bertuna. The earlieſt account of it is in 1330, when John de Rochford held it of Edmund Earl of Kent. In 1337 Sir Thomas de Rochford gave up to Geoffrey de Denham, in Suffolk, his right to the manor and eſtates: it afterwards came again into the Rochford family. In 1558 William Latham, Eſq., poſſeſſed it under Lord Bergavenny; Sir Edward Sulyard in 1610; the Bayning, or Banning, family had it next.

Paul Viſcount Banning left an only daughter and heireſs, Anne, married to Aubrey de Vere, the twentieth and laſt earl of the family. Upon her death, without iſſue, it came to her four aunts. Elizabeth, the youngeſt, married to Francis Lennard, Lord Dacre, poſſeſſed it; and it came to her youngeſt ſon, Henry Lennard, Eſq.

The manor of Tremnals, or Hemnals. The manſion-houſe of this manor is an old and large building, lying in a bottom, above a mile and half north of the church. It is commonly called Trimnells. Sir Thomas Tyrell in 1476 held it. The eſtate belonged afterwards to Sir Thomas Raymond, Knight, one of the juſtices of the King's Bench, who died in 1683. Benjamin Diſbrow, Eſq., acquired it next, and was ſheriff of the county in 1689. There are other lands here. In 1392 forty-ſix acres of arable, one of meadow, and one and half of wood, were given to St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital. Five pounds per annum were given to the poor of this pariſh, and two others out of the manor by Lady Cæſar.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and ſtands pleaſantly on a hill; it is of one pace with the chancel; at the weſt end is a tower of ſtone. The rectory was appendant to the manor of Downham-hall; and a long time in the gift of the De Vere family, Earls of Oxford. After paſſing through ſeveral hands it came into the Beauvoir family. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 623*l.* 3*s.* The living is valued in the king's books at 12*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.*, and is not diſcharged.

HORNDON.

THIS hundred contains three pariſhes of this name, diſtinguiſhed by the reſpective names of Eaſt, Weſt, and on the Hill, ſo called from their ſituation. Theſe diſtinctions did not ſubſiſt at the time of the ſurvey. The name is derived from the Saxon words, which ſignify Horn Hill: it is ſometimes written Thorndon. In the reign of the Confeſſor, Aluein, a thane, a prieſt, and a freeman, were in poſſeſſion of the lands of the pariſh, which at the time of the ſurvey belonged to Sweyn of Eſſex and the Biſhop of London. Theſe lands were afterwards divided into the manor of Heron, with Montfrith and other parcels; the manor of Foulcher, or Fuchers; and that of Low Horndon, or Abbots.

The manor of Heron, or Herne, ſeems originally to have taken its name from a heronry here. The family of Heron here, who poſſeſſed it, undoubtedly took their

name from the place of their habitation; it came from them by marriage into that of Tyrell. It is not known when this manor was detached. The manſion-houſe ſtands about a mile north of the church. It is an old brick building, ſurrounded with a moat; on the outer ſide of it ſtand four towers detached from the reſt of the edifice. The chief part of it is of the date of Henry VI., or Edward IV. There is no exact account when the Tyrell family became poſſeſſed of it, but no doubt it was when Sir James Tyrell married Margaret, daughter and heireſs of Sir William Heron, in the reign of Edward II. or III. They were deſcended from Walter Tyrell, who held the manor of Langham at the time of the ſurvey, and was probably the ſame perſon who ſhot William Rufus in New Foreſt. It continues to the preſent time in that ancient family. Fingods and Poddeſbrooke are the names of woods belonging to Heron.

The manor of Abbots was ſo called, becauſe it belonged to Waltham-abbey. It is alſo called Low Horndon, becauſe the houſe lies in a bottom below the church. Sweyn of Eſſex poſſeſſed it at the time of the ſurvey, and upon the cowardice of his grandſon it became forfeited to the crown. Henry II. granted this manor to Henry Gervaſe de Cornhull: Joan his daughter brought it to her huſband Hugh de Nevill in 1195: he granted the manor, without the advowſon, to the monks of Waltham Holy-croſs, who enjoyed it till the diſſolution. Sir William de Torndon held half a knight's fee here in 1210: his grand-daughter granted this alſo to the abbey of Waltham: at the diſſolution it came to the crown. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted or ſold it by the name of the manor of Eaſt Thorndon and Damhelins to Sir William Petre and his heirs; they were part of Anne of Cleves' jointure. Sir John Tyrell had the manor of Damhelins from him. The manor of Low Thorndon, or Eaſt Thorndon, has continued ever ſince in the noble family of Petre.

The church ſtands very pleaſantly on riſing ground, and is dedicated to All Saints, conſiſting of a body and two aiſles. The chancel has a chapel to the ſouth, called Lord Petre's chapel, probably becauſe it belonged to the abbots. At the weſt end is a tower of brick, embattled, with four bells. The Neville family were in poſſeſſion of the rectory for a conſiderable length of time, as they reſerved the advowſon, though they gave to Waltham-abbey the manor. About 1390 it came to Henry IV., and from him to William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton. Henry VI. granted it to Sir Thomas Tyrell, in whoſe heirs it has ſince remained. A chapel was built here by the abbot and convent of Waltham, but no traces of it are left. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 50*l*.

WEST

WEST THORNDON.

IN the Confeſſor's reign two freemen poſſeſſed this pariſh, which Edmund, ſon of Algot, had at the time of the ſurvey. There is but one manor in the pariſh. The manſion-houſe, called Weſt Horndon Hall, ſtands in a park on riſing ground, from whence a moſt beautiful proſpect preſents itſelf. It is a noble pile of building, and is now called Thorndon. The next poſſeſſors of the eſtate after the ſurvey were the families of Thany, Brianzon, Drokensford, and Neville. After this, for ſome length of time, no account of this eſtate is to be met with: but in the reign of Henry VI. a family of the name of Ludowic John poſſeſſed it. This family was derived from Lewis, Dauphin, afterward King Lewis VIII. of France, who was invited over to England by the barons in the reign of King John. During his ſtay he had an intrigue with a noble lady, who had a ſon born to him, named Fitz-Lewis. The lady was heireſs to a large property, and afterwards married to a nobleman, from whom ſome of our greateſt families are deſcended. The eſtate was afterwards in the Petre family about 1600, in whom it remains. Field-houſe here belonged, in Henry IV.th's reign, to the family of Coggeſhall.

Ging Ralph, commonly called Ingrave, was united by act of parliament to that of Weſt Thorndon, after having been for many years a ſeparate pariſh. Ging is a Saxon word, ſignifying meadow or paſture; the name of Ralph was taken from an owner at the time of the ſurvey.

The manſion-houſe ſtands low near the ſite of the old church. The family of Montchenſy held this manor of the barony of Swainſcamp. Edward I. gave it to his ſon Edmund of Woodſtock, Earl of Kent, on failure of the male line of the eldeſt branch of the family. A family, ſurnamed De Ginges, had it in Edward I.st's reign. In 1317 it paſſed to Richard Goſſalin, heir of John de Ginges. The Goſhalm family, for ſo the name was now called, ceaſed here about the reign of Henry IV. or V. By the marriage of the heireſs of the Goſhalm family this eſtate came to Lewis John, who preſented to the rectory in 1455. Sir Lewis Fitz-Lewis being attainted for his adherence to the houſe of Lancaſter, the eſtate was given, among others, to Richard Duke of Glouceſter by his brother King Edward IV. But the manor of Weſt Thorndon and the advowſon of the church were given to Thomas Bourchier, Archbiſhop of Canterbury. Upon Richard III. being defeated and ſlain at Boſworth-field, all his eſtates came to Henry VII., who reſtored them to Sir Richard

Fitz-

Fitz-Lewis. Ella Fitz-Lewis brought them in marriage to Sir John Mordaunt: and of him they were purchaſed by Sir William Petre, who died in poſſeſſion of them in 1571; from him they deſcended to Lord Petre. There are other lands in this pariſh. The Rev. Robert Spencer, rector, in 1638, gave a houſe and land of 3*l.* per annum near the pond on Ingrave common for the ornaments of the church: it is called Church-houſe and Croft. The poor have alſo a gift in bread. An alms-houſe ſtands on the green for two dwellers.

A new brick church has been built lately at the expence of the late Lord Petre, as the old churches of Weſt Horndon and Ging Ralph were become ruinous and taken down. It ſtands near the mounts belonging to Weſt Thorndon-hall, about midway of the two old churches; whence an avenue towards Brentwood is made, with a baſon of water and new plantations. Each of theſe churches was dedicated to St. Nicholas; that of Weſt Horndon ſtood below the hall; that of Ging Ralph, about two miles north of it, in a bottom. The rectory of Weſt Thorndon was for ſome time in the gift of the families of Fitz-William and Coggeſhall, then of Lewis John, and Fitz-Lewis, and of Mordaunt, and ever ſince in the family of Petre. The rectory of Gingrave was firſt in that of Goſhalme, and afterwards in the ſame family as the former. Weſt Thorndon is rated to the land-tax at 430*l.*, and Ingrave at 455*l.* The living is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

THORNDON ON THE HILL.

THIS pariſh ſtands about four miles and a half ſouth from the two others, upon a hill, whence it derived the name. There is an excellent proſpect from this ſpot over a great extent of country. The town has a ſmall market on Saturdays, and a fair on St. Peter's day. In the reign of the Confeſſor a freeman, Ulric, enjoyed it. The Earl of Boulogne had it at the time of the ſurvey. It was afterwards divided into the manors of Ardern or Arden-hall, Malgreffe, and Wythfield.

Ardern-hall ſtands at the eaſt end of the town. It is the largeſt manor, and formerly comprized that of Malgreffe. Its ancient poſſeſſors, after the Earl of Boulogne, were a family of the name of Ardern, from which it derived its name. In 1122 Thomas Ardern and his ſon gave to the monks of Bermondſey the tithe of corn of their lordſhip in Horndon, which was this eſtate. John de Lovetot in 1295 held a large

large portion of land here of Thomas de Ardern. Next the families of Fabel, Shaa, and Pooley, poſſeſſed it. It was afterwards purchaſed by the Kingſman family, in whom it remained. Ardern-hall and Horndon-place paid great and ſmall tithes to a private impropriator; which tithes afterwards came to two ſiſters.

The manor of Malgreffe, or Malgraves. The manſion-houſe ſtands about a mile from this town, on the left-hand ſide of the road leading to Langdon hills. It derived its name from its ancient owners. In 1200 Arnulph Malgreffe paid two marks to the ſcutage of Normandy. Sir John Tyrell after this family in 1540 held it. Edward Archer, who died in 1600, held this manor, which by computation contained about 350 acres, and Malgrave-mead 10 acres. It has ſince that time been in the family of Andrews. Anne, daughter of Thomas Andrews, citizen of London, brought it to her huſband, Thomas Cotton, Eſq., of Conington in Cambridgeſhire; from whom it deſcended to their daughter and heireſs, Frances, wife of Dingley Aſkham, Eſq., of Conington, the preſent lord. The eſtate pays a modus of 13*s.* 4*d.* to the vicar.

The manor of Wythfield has a manſion-houſe, about a mile north of the church. The manor was diſtinct from the two already mentioned, as early as the time of Edward III.; for in 1337 Maud, wife of John de Handlo, held it. In 1372 Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, held a fourth part of a knight's fee, which Abel de Wythfield held of him. The manor took its name from this perſon. Thomas Sampken, Eſq., held it, and died without heirs. In 1607 Chriſtopher Chibborn, Eſq., had it; and he ſold it to Thomas Wright, Gent. Geoffrey Tucker had it afterwards, who ſold it to William Vernon, Gent. Jaſper Kingſman, Eſq., of the Middle Temple, had it next, and died in 1704, and it continued in that family. Thomas Highbed and Daniel Caldwell, Eſq., had lands in the pariſh; the former in 1555, when he was burnt for hereſy; the latter in 1634. The monaſtery of Bromehale in Berkſhire had lands here, which Henry VIII. in 1522 granted to St. John's College, Cambridge. The abbey of Colcheſter had tithes here out of ſeveral lands in the pariſh.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and is pleaſantly ſituated in the middle of the town. It has a chancel and north aiſle, and a tower embattled with a ſhingled ſpire on the top, which contains five bells. It belonged formerly to Barking nunnery, to which the great tithes were appropriated, and they had the advowſon of the vicarage. They remained in them till the ſuppreſſion, when they came to the crown. Henry VIII. in 1544 granted both to the dean and chapter of St. Paul's

in

in London, in whom they have ever ſince continued. The vicarage was augmented with Queen Anne's bounty in 1719, and Biſhop Robinſon gave to it 225*l.* Here is a cuſtom at the churching of a woman for her to give a white cambric handkerchief to the miniſter as an offering. The ſame cuſtom is obſerved in the Iſle of Thanet. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 1026*l.* 3*s.* The living is valued at 49*l.* in the king's books, and is diſcharged.

DUNTON.

DUNTON derives its name from the Saxon words, which mean hill and town. It is ſituated between the Thorndons. It is written in records with the addition of Wallet, which was as early as the reign of King Richard II., and probably from the name of a tenant. In the reign of the Confeſſor the pariſh belonged to a prieſt, a freeman, and to Uluin. At the ſurvey it was part of the large poſſeſſions of Odo Biſhop of Bayeux. The pariſh was divided into two manors afterwards: Dunton-hall and Frierne: the former ſtands near the church. Upon Odo's being deprived of his poſſeſſions, his half-brother, William the Conqueror, gave the eſtate to the noble family of Albini, founders of the abbey of Bec in Normandy. In 1395 this monaſtery demiſed to John de Pickenham and Elizabeth his wife the advowſon of the church, and the reverſion of the manor after the death of Alice, late wife of Sir Thomas Tyrell. Humphrey de Waleden, who died in 1330, held this manor for life, the reverſion being in Margery, widow of John de Say, and her ſon. In 1358 John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, held it of the prior of Okeburne; and Thomas, his ſon, in 1370. Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, held, at the time of his death in 1372, one fee in Dunton, which the abbot of Waltham Holy-croſs had near Hareward Stoke; and alſo a tenth part of a knight's fee here called Sterling Shell, of the prior of Okeburne. This manor, as it belonged to a foreign priory, was ſeized either by Edward III. or Henry V.; but when and to whom it was granted does not appear. The advowſon was in the family of Inglefield, who preſented to the living from 1422 to 1451, and therefore probably had a grant of the eſtate. In 1442 Sir Lewis John died in poſſeſſion of this manor of Dunton Weylott, with the advowſon of the church. After its confiſcation, in the reign of Edward III., it remained for ſome time in the crown. About 1467 Edward IV. gave it to Thomas

Thomas Wilmot, vicar of Aſhford in Kent, and his ſucceſſors. Thomas Wilmot preſented to the rectory from 1467 to 1479; and his ſucceſſor, William Sutton, maſter of the college of Aſhford, in 1496. Upon the ſuppreſſion of monaſteries the crown became poſſeſſed of all their lands. In 1530 John Ponett had licence to alienate the manor and villa of Dounton Waylett, with the advowſon of the church, to John Cheke. After that the provoſt and fellows of King's College, in Cambridge, ſeem to have poſſeſſed them both. They preſented in 1532, and have ever ſince been poſſeſſed of the manor and rectory.

The manor of Friern belongs to St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital in London, and is let out upon leaſe. Friern-hall, the manſion-houſe, lies in a bottom, about half a mile north from the church.

Dunton Waylett, a capital meſſuage in this pariſh, is above a mile north from the church, and belonged to George Drywood, Gent., who died in 1603. He had other lands in the pariſh.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is pleaſantly ſituated on riſing ground; it is of one pace with the chancel, and has a ſpire. The rectory was at firſt in the gift of the Albini family; then in the abbey of Bec in Normandy; afterwards in the Inglefield family; and in the maſters of the hoſpital or chantry of Aſhford in Kent; and ſince the year 1532 in King's College, Cambridge. The pariſh of Dunton is rated to the land-tax at 85*o*/. The living is not diſcharged, and is valued at 14*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. in the king's books.

BULFAN.

THIS pariſh lies ſouth of Dunton. In it is a brook, which runs down to Purfleet on the weſt. It overflows ſo much of the country here, that it forms a marſh at Orſet, called Orſet Fens, and another called Bulfan Fen. It derives its name from this fen and the word bull, as it were a bull's fen. There is a tradition that the tide uſed to flow ſo ſtrong by Purfleet up this brook, that boats could ſail up to Orſet-hall, or higher. It belonged formerly to the nunnery of Barking. The manor and advowſon continued in that houſe till the diſſolution of monaſteries. Bulfan-hall ſtands near the eaſt end of the church. The Wic ſtands in a bottom. In 1546 King Henry VIII. granted the manor of Bulvan-hall and the advowſon of the church

to Edward Bury and his heirs. He was a juſtice of peace and of the bed-chamber to Henry. It continued in this family alone till 1692, when Henry Bury and Jaſper Williams preſented to the living. The manor and advowſon are ſhared between the families of Bury and Kingſman.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a ſpire. The church was in the gift of Barking-abbey till the diſſolution. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 737*l.* The living is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 23*l.*

ORSET.

THE name of this pariſh appears to have been taken from the Saxon word, which imports Horſe's-heath. Here are ſome ancient entrenchments and fortifications incloſing four or five acres. Before the Conqueſt this pariſh belonged to the ſee of London, but afterwards part of it was given to Euſtace Earl of Boulogne, which he enjoyed at the time of the ſurvey. Theſe formed the two manors of Orſet-hall and Loft-hall.

The manor-houſe of Orſet-hall ſtands a very ſhort way to the north-weſt of the church. Biſhop Bonner had a houſe here, in which he reſided; moſt of it is now demoliſhed. The manor and eſtate were in the ſee of London till the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, when, upon Bonner's deprivation, the manor came into the queen's poſſeſſion, and it continued in the crown during the remainder of her reign. In 1635 we find it in the poſſeſſion of —— Latham, Gent. Soon after John Hall, attorney, of London, held it. Richard Letchmere and his ſon, being entitled to a moiety of the manor from his having purchaſed it of the laſt heireſs of the Hatt family, ſold it in 1743 to Richard Baker, Eſq., of Stepney. Richard Letchmere the younger ſold a moiety of the demeſne lands to Mr. Baker for 2900*l.*, and in 1744 a moiety of the manor. Mr. Letchmere dying ſoon after, his widow ſold the quit-rents and an undivided moiety of the manor for 1800*l.* In 1746 Peter Le Febvre, Eſq., of Walthamſtow, and his wife, for 2900*l.*, ſold the other moiety to Richard Baker, Eſq. Mr. Baker died in 1751.

Loft-hall, otherwiſe Loſt-hall, is the other manor in this pariſh, and the part belonging to Euſtace Earl of Boulogne. Stephen de Bockton, who died in 1286, held the

the eſtate. Stephen de Abyndon in 1305 held lands here. In 1463 this eſtate was given by Sir Gerard Braybrooke, junior, Edmund Hampden, Eſq., John Boys, Eſq., and the Rev. Roger Albrighton, to maintain a chantry for one chaplain to perform divine ſervice at the altar of St. Mary, under St. Mary's chapel, within the Biſhop of London's palace, joining to the church of St. Paul, to pray for the good ſtate of the Biſhop Robert Braybrooke. After the ſuppreſſion of chantries, this manor, lately belonging to the chantry, remained in the crown till Queen Elizabeth, in 1559, granted it to Edward Baeſh, Eſq., and Henry Parker, to hold in ſocage. In 1563 Owen Clunne, citizen and draper of London, held the manor: Anne, wife of John Sheppard of Balcote, Shropſhire, was his heir. In 1616 Francis Downes, Eſq., held the manor of Orſet. The manor of Loſt-hall is but very ſmall. Here are other lands.

Sabur, or Seborrow-hall, is ſuppoſed to be in the three pariſhes of Orſet, Mucking, and Chadwell. It ſtands on the right-hand ſide of the road leading from Horndon on the Hill to Chadwell. It formerly belonged to the hoſpital of St. Mary Without Biſhopgate, London. In 1543 Henry VIII. granted this manor to John Wiſeman, of Felſtead: it was afterwards in William Strangman, Eſq., and has ſince been purchaſed for the rector of Limehouſe, in Middleſex.

Crondon is a conſiderable parcel of land, which, though above ten miles north from Orſet, between the pariſhes of Stock and Margaretting, is ſtill a hamlet in the pariſh of Orſet. It was formerly a park, and has for ſome years paſt been turned into farms belonging to Lord Petre, except a ſmall portion. Crondon pays to the poor-rates of Orſet. That part which lies in the pariſh of Stock pays tithes to the rector of Stock. Part of the endowment of Ingateſtone hoſpital is 48*l.* per annum out of Crondon. Here are ſeveral benefactions to the pariſh. Thomas Hotoffe of Orſet gave 40 acres of land to the pariſhioners. ' Ambroſe Gilbert gave 5*l.* yearly to the poor. Alice, wife of Iſaac Hemings, in 1643, gave a conſiderable portion of land. There are alſo ſome alms-houſes. A farm in this pariſh, conſiſting of a meſſuage and about 100 acres of copyhold land, is given to the curate of the chapel of Southgate, in Edmonton.

The church is dedicated to St. Giles and All Saints: it ſtands in the ſtreet in a pleaſant ſituation: it is large, and conſiſts of a double pace. The chancel contains a north and ſouth chapel. It has a brick tower, and a ſpire of wood. Until the reign of Queen Elizabeth the patronage of this valuable rectory appears to have been in the

Biſhops of London. A rector was formerly preſented by Edward I., and another by the Biſhop of London; between whom there was a conteſt. It was probably determined by the lord chancellor's preſentation. Queen Elizabeth preſented three times, reviving the pretenſions of the crown in King Edward's time. Elizabeth, or James I., granted it to Sir Robert Cecil, who exchanged it with the Biſhop of London for the advowſon of Cheſhunt. The rector pays a penſion of 6*l.* per annum to the chancellor of St. Paul. Thomas Hotoft founded a chantry in this church, and endowed it ſo well, that at the time of the ſuppreſſion it was valued at 7*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 1840*l.* The living is not diſcharged, and is valued at 29*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books.

LITTLE THURROCK.

THIS pariſh is one of the three Thurrocks that are in this county along the ſide of the river Thames: the two others are in Chafford. This is called Eaſt Thurrock. Uluein, a freeman, held this eſtate under the Confeſſor. At the time of the ſurvey it was ſtyled the fee of the Biſhop of London. The value of this manor, at the time of the ſurvey, was ſet ſo low, that, in order to make three manors, as in time it did, it muſt have been very much improved, or ſome parts of the neighbouring pariſhes taken into it. One part appears to have continued in the Biſhops of London till the reign of Edward III., and the reſt to have been held of the crown by ſerjeantcy at a very early period.

The pariſh now contains three manors: Little Thurrock, Torell's Hall, and Berewes.

The manor of Little or Eaſt Thurrock has a manſion-houſe, which ſtands very near the church. There is no early account of it: about the time of King Edward II. or III. it was in a family named De Graveſend. For ſome time it was in the family of Carew, who preſented eight times to the living. William Skreen and others preſented in 1408; John Berdefeld and others in 1429 and 1437; from which it is probable that they were in poſſeſſion of the manor. In 1539 Thomas Sampſon, or Sampkin, Eſq., held the manor and advowſon of the church. This manor was afterwards in the crown, and granted by King Philip and Queen Mary in 1558 to Sir Thomas White and others. The manor was again in the crown in

Queen Elizabeth's time, who preſented from 1567 to 1597. Sir John Lewes held it in 1598. King James I. granted it to Robert Stratford afterwards. Sir Thomas Lake preſented to the living in 1605: it continued in the Lake family till Abraham Fothergill, Gent., preſented in 1681; Sir Robert Daſhwood, Bart., and others, in 1697. The eſtate was afterwards mortgaged to —— Newburgh, Eſq., of Ireland, and purchaſed of him by Francis Hayes, Eſq., of the Temple, whoſe heir and nephew ſold it to Mr. James Green, cornfactor, in London, in 1743; and he diſpoſed of it, with the advowſon, to Ebenezer Muſſel, Eſq., who died in October 1764. The manor holds no court, and out of it is paid a fee-farm rent of 18*l.* 10*s.*

Torell's-hall ſtands near the pound by the ſide of the road. This manor was derived from the other, and was as early as the reign of Henry II. in the Torell family. It muſt have had a new grant from the crown ſince the biſhop was the lord, becauſe the ſerjeantcy by which it was held could not be performed by a biſhop. That grand ſerjeantcy conſiſted of being napperer to the king, or having care of the king's nappery or table-linen on the day of his coronation. It continued in the Torell family until Anne Torell married Henry Joſcelyn, Eſq., fourth ſon of Thomas Joſcelyn. She died in 1589. Sir Thomas Joſcelyn, the ſurviving ſon and heir, alienated the eſtate to Sir Thomas Leveſon. It afterwards belonged to Nicholas Grice, Eſq., and being ſold by a decree of chancery to pay his debts, was purchaſed by Colonel Henry Cornewall, of Bradwardin Caſtle, in Herefordſhire; from him it came to General Cornewall, who left the eſtate to a female who had lived with him for ſome years. She married, after the general's death, Mr. Moore of Ireland, to whom at her death ſhe bequeathed the eſtate; and he left it to his brother Blundell Moore, Eſq.

The manor of Berewes, now called Barons, is derived alſo from Little Thurrock. The houſe ſtands on the left-hand ſide of the road leading to Chadwell, into which pariſh this manor extends. The accounts of this eſtate are very imperfect. Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March, who died in 1360, had one fee in Little Thurrock, called Berewes, which William Squery held of him. John Squery held it of the widow of Sir John Grey in 1425. Thomas Springe in 1523 died in poſſeſſion of it under Henry Torell, Eſq. In 1567 Clement Syſeley and Anne his wife, and Agnes Kidderminſter, widow, delivered poſſeſſion to Joanna Laxton. The eſtate next belonged to John Ruſſell, Eſq., of North Okendon. There are ſome other lands in the pariſh.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel,

and

and nearly of the ſame width. In the ſouth wall of the chancel, on the inſide, are arches ſupported by pillars of the Tuſcan order. The rectory appears to have been chiefly appendant to the manor of Thurrock-hall. Little Thurrock is rated to the land-tax at 794*l.* The living is valued at 13*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and is not diſcharged.

CHADWELL.

THIS pariſh takes its name probably from St. Chad and well, or from the Saxon, which ſignifies cold. It might alſo be taken from the great chalk pits or wells, which were dug here, and made to ſerve as granaries to the ancient Britons. The Danes are reported to have uſed them as receptacles of their plunder. Camden has deſcribed them as ſpacious caverns in a chalky cliff, built artificially of ſtone to the height of ten fathoms, and ſtraight at the top. Dr. Derham, who was a curious obſerver, deſcribes them as being of fifty feet deep, ſome of ſeventy and eighty: there are ſeveral of them. A cow fell down that of fifty feet depth, and eſcaped unhurt, as the bottom was ſandy. Over the midſt of the hole is an arch of two hundred feet of chalk. Theſe holes lie near the highway, within the compaſs of ſix acres of ground leading from Stifford to Chadwell: ſome of them are within the bounds of the pariſh of Little Thurrock; and in Eaſt Tilbury is a field called Cave Field, in which there is a horizontal paſſage to the cavern. Tradition ſays, that here were the famous golden mines of King Cunobilin. Upon this idea, and countenanced by a paſſage in Dr. Plot's Natural Hiſtory of Oxfordſhire, one of the projects or bubbles in 1720 was for extracting gold or ſilver here. It appears to have been a received opinion that ſilver mines have been in England; if they were not, it might be difficult to ſay how the large Daniſh tributes, called Danegelds, were paid here at that time.

In the reign of the Confeſſor the owners of land in this pariſh were Aluric, a king's thane; Edwolt, the ſheriff; and Godman, a freeman. At the time of the ſurvey, the Biſhop of London held the chief part under the title of his fee. Odo Biſhop of Bayeux had the next conſiderable ſhare. The lands were afterwards divided into the manors of Chadwell, Ingleby, Longhouſe, and Biggin.

The manor of Chadwell has a manor-houſe ſtanding near the church, called Chadwell-hall. The earlieſt account of it, after the ſurvey, is about 1250, when a family, ſurnamed De Wokindon, held it under the Biſhop of London, with the advowſon of the

the church. Nicholas de Halaughton, heir of Joan, daughter and heireſs of Sir Nicholas de Wokindon, claimed free warren in Chadwell and others. Sir Nicholas de Halton preſented to the church in 1336, and held the manor of the Biſhop of London. Sir Roger de Northwood preſented to the rectory in right of his wife, daughter of Sir Nicholas Halton, in 1362; Margaret Barry, widow of John Barry, in 1389, her ſecond huſband; and then Walter Grey, lord of the manor, her third huſband. John de Bois had the eſtate afterwards, which he held of the Biſhop of London, and preſented in 1409; Nicholas de Rykhill in 1422; afterwards Philip Malpas, citizen and draper of London, till 1461. Elizabeth, his only daughter and heireſs, married Sir Thomas Cooke; Anne Cooke married Sir Edward Sydenham; and Vere married Sir Charles Gawdry: they transferred the eſtate after it had remained in the family a conſiderable length of time: the latter had it to 1683: it was after that in Thomas Velley, Gent.; and then purchaſed by Sir Robert Smyth, Bart. His deſcendant, Sir Trafford Smyth, ſold the manor, advowſon, and eſtate, to Mr. Richard Hyder, of Grey's Thurrock, for the ſum of 3250*l.*, who has ſince diſpoſed of the advowſon.

The manſion-houſe of the manor of Ingleby is now demoliſhed; it ſtood where the court is held near to two trees; but there are ſome buildings belonging to the demeſnes near the ferry. It was originally part of the Biſhop of London's fee. In 1337 Stephen de Graveſend, biſhop, had it. In 1364 Joan, widow of Sir Thomas Graveſend, holding this in dower, releaſed her right to Thomas de Ingelby; from which family it derived the name. After the Ingleby family it came to Peter Symonds, who died in 1587. The eſtate now belongs to the poor of Wincheſter.

The manor of Longhouſe, otherwiſe Chadwell-place, is not found in records till the reign of Henry VI. Sir William Skrene, who died in 1430, held jointly with his wife this manor. Sir Thomas Tyrell in 1476 held it. His deſcendants do not appear to have enjoyed it, nor is it known who did between his time and that of the preſent poſſeſſor, John Ruſſel, Eſq., of North Okendon.

The manor of Biggin is on the left ſide of the road leading from Chadwell to Little Thurrock. The word ſignifies a habitation, or manor-houſe. It belonged to the abbey of Stratford Langthorne. In 1338 Reginald Gobion and his ſon gave lands to the abbey, 1 meſſuage, 9 acres of arable, and 31 of marſh, in Chaldewell; and in 1400 Edward Mille gave them 1 meſſuage, 100 acres of arable, 4 of meadow, and 200 of marſh, in Caldewell, Eaſt and Weſt Tilbury, and Little Thurrock.

Thurrock. Theſe conſtituted the manor of Biggin. In 1478 Sir Ralph Joſlyn held it under the abbey of Stratford. After the ſuppreſſion Henry VIII. in 1544 granted the eſtate to the dean and chapter of St. Paul, who have ever ſince enjoyed it.

Cowpers is mentioned as another manor in this pariſh. In 1595 Roger Taſker held it.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and ſtands on the ſide of a hill, and is of one pace and almoſt the ſame breadth with the chancel. At the weſt end is a tower of ſtone. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor of Chadwell-hall; but it has been alienated from it. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 737*l.* When Tilbury-fort was enlarged by Charles II. the road was turned into Chadwell. The living is valued at 17*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and is not diſcharged.

TILBURY.

THERE are three pariſhes of this name in Eſſex, two of them contiguous, and lying near the river Thames; the other in Hinckford hundred, called Near Clare, becauſe it is within a few miles of that town. The name is derived either from the Saxon, huſbandmen, or a tile; and a city, town, or caſtle; probably becauſe here was anciently a town, or fortification, one of the firſt tiled in this iſland; or a ſtrong place, which ſerved for a retreat to the country people in caſe of invaſion.

Weſt Tilbury lies weſt of the other by the ſide of the river Thames, from which it derives its name. In the ſeventh century here was a conſiderable town, though now it is but a poor village: for when St. Chad converted the Eaſt Saxons to Chriſtianity, and was conſecrated biſhop of the dioceſe, he fixed one of his epiſcopal ſees at Tilbury. At the time of the ſurvey Sweyn and his tenants held the pariſh, which in the Saxon time had belonged to Aluric, a prieſt. It was divided afterwards into the manors of Weſt Tilbury and of Condovers.

The manor of Weſt Tilbury has a manor-houſe, called Weſt Tilbury-hall, and ſtands a ſhort way north-weſt of the church. Sweyn's grandſon, Henry de Eſſex, hereditary ſtandard-bearer, loſt his eſtates through his cowardice. A late poſſeſſor took his name from this place. Robert de Tilbury, about the reign of Henry II., held the manor, and took his name from it. Richard, his ſon, had a fair and market here granted

granted to him. In 1319 John de Tilbury granted it to Richard Abell, with the advowſon of the church and chapel. John de Chavent, heir and couſin of Sir Peter de Chavent, granted in 1344 to Thomas Lodelawe and his heirs 4*l.* a year out of this manor. In 1348 John Charteney, citizen and merchant of London, releaſed to Sir William Vaughan, and his wife and heirs, his right of the manor of Weſt Tilbury. The eſtate was afterwards divided among female heirs, and was then ſubdivided. Margaret, wife of Sir Richard Mutton, had a ſixth part in 1420. This portion then came to Nicholas Fulke. The ſame year Philip Bokilton, Eſq., had a ſixth part. In 1422 John Fulke paſſed by fine a moiety of the third part of this manor to John Harpur of Hereford; and in 1436 releaſed all his right to him. Margaret, wife of Sir Baldwin Strange, held a third part of Richard Duke of York. Elizabeth, wife of Robert Molineux, was her daughter and heireſs. Thomas Hethe had a moiety of it, and the advowſon of the chapel, which in 1457 he paſſed to John Harpyr, Eſq., of Rapſhale. Nicholas Jorſlyn had the other half in 1503. Joan, wife of Thomas Smyth, in 1536, held a moiety and the advowſon. Thomas Smyth in 1560 alienated a fourth part to John Throgmorton, Eſq.; and after that the eſtate was in Richard Jenoure, Eſq., of Bigods, in Great Dunmow. Anne, daughter of Sir Kenelm Jenoure, who died in 1629, had it, and was married to —— Dell, Eſq., and afterwards to Sir Richard Hatton. Mr. John Kellaway, who died in 1737, bought this eſtate of Thomas Hatton, Eſq., and then ſold it to Richard Mickelfield, Eſq.; from whom it came to his nephew Richard Hunt, Eſq.

The manor of Condovers has a manſion ſtanding on a green near the parſonage. The firſt mention of it is in the reign of Henry VIII. Edward Baker, Eſq., in 1535 held 1 meſſuage, 100 acres of arable, 100 of paſture, 200 of marſh, with appurtenances called Condovers, in Eaſt and Weſt Tilbury. This eſtate was afterwards in Philip Howard, Eſq., who ſold it to John Brewſter: here are other ſmall eſtates. Lands in this pariſh, called Le Wyke, are part of the endowment of Chelmsford ſchool.

Tilbury-fort is oppoſite to Graveſend, and is a regular fortification built at firſt by Henry VIII., being then only a kind of block-houſe. After the Dutch had come up the river in 1667, and burnt our ſhips at Chatham, Charles II. directed it to be enlarged. It was planned by Sir Martin Beckman, with baſtions, which are the largeſt of any in England. Queen Elizabeth had a camp here, when the Spaniſh Armada was threatening this country. The camp was where the windmill now

ſtands. The fort has a double moat, the innermoſt of which is 180 feet broad, with a good counterſcarp, a covered way, ravelins, and tenailles, and a platform on which 106 cannon are placed from 24 to 46 pounders, beſides ſmaller ones planted between them; and the baſtions and curtains alſo planted with guns. On the land ſide alſo are two redoubts of brick, and here the whole level may be laid under water. The four proconſular ways made in Great Britain croſſed each other here. Great part of the land in this level, which is formed of thoſe unhealthy marſhes called the Three Hundreds, is held by farmers, cow-keepers, and grazing-butchers of London, who generally ſtock them with Leiceſterſhire and Lincolnſhire wethers, which they buy in Smithfield in September and October.

Within the lands belonging to the manor of Weſt Tilbury, a famous medicinal water was diſcovered in 1727 by Mr. John Kellaway, who made a well there in 1734. The ſprings lie about 12 feet deep from the ſurface of the ground, which is a hill at leaſt 30 feet above the marſhes, in a hard gravel. About the depth of 13 feet is a bed of ſand about 30 feet deep, which, lying between the ſpring and the marſhes, prevents any communication that way; and the well is within 40 yards of the extreme point of the hill. The waters, from various experiments, proved their qualities to be good; they have been found beneficial in hæmorrhages, ſcurvy, diabetes, and loſs of appetite. They can be carried to the Eaſt Indies and back again, without loſing their quality, and are the only kind of water of this ſort found in this part of England.

The church, dedicated to St. James, ſtands pleaſantly at the end of a green, on a riſing ground, which affords a delightful proſpect towards the Thames and the Channel. It has a ſpire and five bells. Here was formerly a tower of ſtone, which ſerved as a ſea mark, but has ſince fallen down. On the north ſide of the church was an aiſle. The rectory was at firſt appendant to the manor. In 1345 John de Poulteney gave the advowſon to the maſter or warden of the charity founded by him to the honour of Corpus Chriſti in the church of St. Laurence in London, and to the twelve chaplains. They only preſented once. The patronage has been in the crown ever ſince.

Weſt Lee Chapel ſtood where the fort now is. There was another at Langdon, called Eaſt Lee Chapel; it is not known why it was ſo called, unleſs from the Saxon word, which ſignifies paſture, or unploughed ground. This chapel was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen: the founder is not known, but ſuppoſed to be of the

the family of Tilbury. Sir Thomas Vaughan, who died in 1362, held the manor of Weſt Tilbury. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 625*l.* The living is not diſcharged, and is valued at 20*l.* in the king's books.

EAST TILBURY.

THIS pariſh is alſo ſituated by the Thames, oppoſite Tilbury Hope. In the Confeſſor's reign it contained only one manor, but was afterwards divided into five; that of Eaſt Tilbury, St. Clere's, Gobyons, Southall, and Goſſaline.

The manſion-houſe of the manor of Eaſt Tilbury ſtands near the church on the weſt. In the reign of Henry III. the eſtate was in the Kewſeck, or Kameſeck family. The next heir was William, ſon of Philip de Welle: he died in poſſeſſion of this manor and the advowſon of the church in 1349. Sir Henry Coggeſhall preſented to the living in 1368 and 1371; but it is uncertain whether he poſſeſſed the manor. The eſtate was purchaſed, together with Sabury-hall, as an endowment of the rectory of St. Anne at Limehouſe.

The manor of St. Clere's was ſo called from its moſt ancient owners upon record. In 1266 William de Sancto Claro, or Clere, held in the village of Eaſt Tilbury 140 acres of arable, 8 of meadow, a marſh for feeding 200 ſheep, and other things. It appears to be one of the three knights fees in this pariſh, held under Humphry Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, who died in 1372. The manor was afterwards in a family named Moſeley, or Muſle. Thomas Brocket, by marrying a Moſeley, came into poſſeſſion, and died in 1477. Sir John Scott next had it after this family: he died in 1484. Some years ago Sir Charles Inglefield had it; and then ſold it to Thomas Grant, who in 1716 diſpoſed of it to Sir William Humphreys, Bart., of Barking, in whoſe family it remained.

The manor of Gobyons, of which the manſion-houſe ſtands about a mile north of the church near the river, derived its name from a family, which has left its name to ſeveral places in the county. Sir Thomas Gobyon held a knight's fee in Eaſt Tilbury under the noble family of Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Eſſex, and which was held afterwards by Edmund Kemeſeck. Sir Richard Sutton had it in 1395. Thomas Byſdeford next poſſeſſed it; and John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, in 1512. Edward Laurence, Eſq., in 1606 poſſeſſed it, and Champion Branfill, Eſq., of Upminſter-hall.

The manor of Goſſalyne, or Goſſaline, has a manſion-houſe about three quarters of a mile north-weſt of the church. It took its name from an ancient family,

mentioned under Ging Ralph, or Ingrave. Richard Goſſaline and Alice his wife held in Eaſt and Weſt Tilbury 1 meſſuage, 150 acres of arable, 120 of marſh, and 5*l.* yearly rent of William Barentyne and others. In 1354 John Merlawe and his heirs had the manor and lands of Sir Richard Goſſaline. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth William Strangman and Anne his wife held it: Sir Thomas Wiſeman held it in 1635 of the honour of Mandeville.

The manor of Southall is in the ſouth part of the pariſh. The manſion-houſe was a great way off, in the marſhes: it is now down. In 1372 Edmund, ſon of Simon, held a knight's fee in Eaſt Tilbury of the Earl of Hereford. It appears to have been once in the Gobyon family. This eſtate is now appropriated to the repairs of Rocheſter bridge; but it is not aſcertained by whom or when it was given.

The church is dedicated to St. Catherine, and conſiſts of a body and north aiſle. The tower was of ſtone, and embattled: it ſtood on the ſouth ſide near the weſt end of the church. In our wars with the Dutch in the ſeventeenth century ſome of their guns on board the ſhips battered it down, as its height offended them. There is now a wooden frame. The church was originally a rectory and ſinecure, with a vicar under it as early as 1325. The patronage of the rectory being in the lords of the manor of Eaſt Tilbury, the families of Kameſeck, Wells, and Coggeſhall, and the rector, preſented to the vicarage till the year 1389. Then John Lord Cobham had it appropriated to his college at Cobham. At the ſuppreſſion the vicarage came to the crown, and has ſince remained with it. A chantry was founded here in 1328 by Sir Thomas Gobyon, who endowed it with lands, &c. At the ſuppreſſion the lands were granted to Thomas Audley, nephew of the lord chancellor. Here was alſo another chantry; the endowment at the ſuppreſſion was granted to William Shouldham, Gent. In this pariſh was the old ferry over the river Thames. The Higham cauſeway, yet viſible, points to the place of the old ferry. This is juſtly ſuppoſed to have been the very place where the Emperor Claudius croſſed the river Thames in purſuit of the Britons. This pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 967*l.* The vicarage is valued at 49*l.* per annum, and is diſcharged.

MUCKING.

THIS pariſh, like the two former, borders upon the river Thames. The name ſeems to be derived from the Saxon words, an heap or great, and meadow or paſture.

paſture. Both before and after the Conqueſt it belonged to the nunnery of Barking. The lordſhip was early divided into two manors, that of Mucking-hall, which remained in the hands of the nunnery till Henry VIII.th's reign, and that of Waltons. It was in a family of that name as early as the time of Edward III.

The manor of Waltons belonged to the family of Vere, afterwards Earls of Oxford, which they held under the abbeſs of Barking. Of the ſame abbeſs were held in this pariſh, by the Shaa and Browne families, lands and tenements called Frodmans, Brokis and Brillis Crofts, and Frodman's Heath; and by Humphrey Gatton, 1 cottage, 200 acres of arable, and 50 of paſture and meadow, in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII. After the ſuppreſſion of religious houſes King Edward VI. in 1547 granted the manor of Mucking and lands there, called Waltons, with the rectory and advowſon of the church, to the dean and chapter of St. Paul, and their ſucceſſors. Mucking-hall ſtands on the ſouth ſide of the church. Tillington and other parcels of lands in this pariſh belonged to Philip Travers in 1636. In the pariſh, in a way leading from Orſet to Stanford, is a large houſe in a bottom, called Jenkins.

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt: it conſiſts of one ſouth aiſle. At the weſt end is a ſtone tower, with a ſpire. Mucking is rated to the land-tax at 709*l.* The living is valued at 10*l.* in the king's books, and is not diſcharged.

STANFORD LE HOPE.

THIS pariſh lies to the eaſtward of the laſt and of Orſet. It took its name from a ſtone or paved ford, where is now a bridge; Le Hope is added to diſtinguiſh it from the other Stanford; and is a bay or winding of the river, where ſhips often ride, either inward or outward bound. Seamen have given it the name of Hope, becauſe they find it a ſafe anchoring place, after they have paſſed the dangers of the Goodwin and other ſands near the mouth of the Thames: they have taken the name from the cable belonging to the anchor, which they term Hope. The accounts of this pariſh are very unſatisfactory; it appears to conſiſt of lands, anciently divided into two diſtinct diſtricts; the one called Stanford, the other Haſſingbrook. Beſides the pariſh church, here was a free chapel, the advowſon of which went along with abbots' manor, the eſtate belonging to Waltham-abbey. In the reign of the Confeſſor

feſſor ſeventeen freemen, and Alaric and Uluuin, were the poſſeſſors here. At the time of the ſurvey Odo Biſhop of Bayeux, Sweyn of Eſſex, and Saſſelin, held it. The lands were afterwards divided into theſe three manors: Haſſingbrook, Calbourne, and Abbot's Hall.

The manor of Haſſingbrook is the chief manor of the pariſh, and is ſo called from the brook which runs by it. Haſſingbrook-hall ſtands about three quarters of a mile north of the church, and is a ſtately ancient building, built by Cuthbert Fetherſton in the reign of James I. Turold and his ſon had it upon the earlieſt records; and after him the Montchenſy family poſſeſſed it. Adomare de Valence, ſon of Joan de Valence, her couſin and heir, and Earl of Pembroke, next came into it, after it had been in the family of the Earls of Oxford, by marrying with a Montchenſy. His widow enjoyed it for many years, and died in 1376, being his third wife. The poſterity of Iſabel, one of her huſband's ſiſters, married to Lord Bergavenny; and of Elizabeth, another ſiſter, to Gilbert Talbot, ſucceſſively inherited the eſtate. John Haſtings, Earl of Pembroke, dying in 1389, this manor came to Sir Richard Talbot. After this it appears to have come to Reginald de Grey of Ruthyn, ſprung from the family of Adomare de Valence, and then to Richard Rede in 1434. William Wettenhall had it in 1457. Sir George Neville had it from William Wettenhall and Reginald Peckham, Eſq. The eſtate was afterwards in George Wettenhall, Eſq., who diſpoſed of it to Richard Champion. It was next in the Fetherſton family. They were of great antiquity in the north of England, and came from Durham. Cuthbert Fetherſton built Haſſingbrook-hall: he died in 1615. It has continued in the family ſince that time.

The manor of Calbourne, or Canvers, belongs to the ſame family. In 1342 John de Newenton had it. In 1465 Richard Walſh and Richard Pigge, Gent., releaſed to William Henify, of London, grocer, all their right here and appurtenances: and in 1607 this manor belonged to Reginald Hallingworth, Eſq.

Abbot's manor was ſo ſtyled, becauſe it belonged to the abbey of Waltham. The manſion-houſe, called Abbot's-hall, ſtands about a mile north-eaſt of the church. Alaric and Uluuin, and then Saſſelin, held it by the name of Stantmere and Winthille. William de Septemmollis, or Semeles, gave it to Waltham-abbey, with the advowſon of a chapel here; but there is no date attached to it. At the ſuppreſſion this eſtate was farmed by Robert Pake at 20*l.* per annum. In 1543 Henry VIII. granted it by the name of the manor of Stanford Hope to Walter Farre, alias Gillingham, and his

heirs. Edward VI. granted it to Robert Curſon and his heirs; but Walter Farre remained in poſſeſſion of it till his death in 1590. The eſtate was, after it had continued in the Farre family, in Thomas Alleyn, D. D., rector of the pariſh, who died in 1677: he left it to his ſon, whoſe daughter and heir brought it to William Aſhby, Eſq., in marriage, of Breakſpear, in Harefield. It came afterwards to the Rev. Thomas Alleyn, vicar of Cookham, in Berkſhire.

In this manor was a free chapel, dedicated to St. Nicolas, endowed with fourteen acres of glebe, and the tithes of Abbot's-hall and of Cory or Curr marſh. Here was once the church of Stanford diſtinct from that of Haſſingbrook, which the monaſtery of Waltham, in whoſe patronage this chapel was, for their own convenience, named a free chapel, though it is found to be, as a pariſh church, endowed with glebe and tithe. In 1548 the meſſuage and tenement called St. Nicolas Free Chapel, with all the premiſes, were granted to Thomas Golding and Walter Cely. The original grant is now in the chapel of the Rolls, which determined a law-ſuit, begun in 1712, between the leſſee of St. Nicolas's chapel, who claimed tithes from other farms in this pariſh than thoſe ſpecified in the grant, and the rector of Stanford, when the latter recovered the right upon producing this authority. This free chapel, with appurtenances, lately belonged to John May, who, with his wife, in 1744, paſſed them by fine to William Bland of Wennington. A tenement and orchard in Fobbing are let to this pariſh for the uſe of the poor at 3*l.* per annum; from Earls Hope marſh, 1*l.* a year to the church, and 1*l.* a year to the poor; beſides other ſmall charities which are here added.

The church ſtands upon riſing ground, and is dedicated to St. Margaret; it is upon a green where ſeveral roads meet; and conſiſts of a body and two aiſles. There is a tower, in which are five bells. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor of Haſſingbrook. In Stanford le Hope was formerly a chapel called St. Mary's chapel, and granted to Thomas Golding. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 978*l.* The rectory is valued at 17*l.* 19*s.* 9½*d.* in the king's books, and is not diſcharged.

CORRINGHAM.

THIS pariſh lies upon the Thames, and in an eaſtern direction from the laſt. It is not eaſy to determine whence the firſt ſyllable is derived; the ſecond ſignifies paſture

paſture ground; and the latter a habitation. At the time of the Confeſſor it belonged to a freeman; and at that of the ſurvey, it was in the Biſhop of London. Odo Biſhop of Bayeux had taken from it half a hide, which probably joined to his manor of Haſſingbrook, in Stanford. Theſe lands were afterwards divided into the three following manors; that of Corringham and Dungefyll, that of Old-hall, and Coggars.

The manor of Corringham has á hall ſtanding near the church, and has a pleaſant proſpect over the Thames into Kent. The Baud family are the firſt poſſeſſors which are found here under the Biſhop of London. This is an old family, originally from Baden in Germany; they were at Corringham as early as the reign of King John. Although perſons of this name continued patrons of the rectory till 1599, yet the manor ſeems to have been in the hands of others. George Blanerhaſſet, Eſq., had it in 1540; John Bride in 1555; John Brewode, Eſq., in 1559. Sir Henry Anderſon, who died in 1605, held the manor and 500 acres of land, and the advowſon of the church. Sir Edward Spencer, Knight, had it in 1637, and preſented to the living: ſoon after that it came into the family of Biddulph, of Ledbury, in Herefordſhire, who have preſented to the rectory ſince the year 1669.

The manor of Old-hall, the manſion-houſe of which ſtands about a quarter of a mile from the church, was rebuilt ſome years ſince. In 1746 Richard Wells enjoyed it in right of his wife; and Thomas Fiſher in 1508. In 1553 a fine paſſed between Thomas Docra and William Scott: in 1554 Thomas Docra and his wife paſſed the ſame fine to Thomas Crawley, who held a court here in 1573. After the Crawley family William Moxon, Gent., was poſſeſſor of it.

The manor of Coggars has a houſe ſtanding by the ſide of the road leading from Corringham to Stanford le Hope. In 1746 Sir Thomas Tyrell held the manor of Richard Wells, and Sir Robert Tyrell in 1508 held it of Thomas Fiſher, Gent.; George Peale had it afterwards. Marſhes here called Swilneſſe, Hanford, Wadewic, Southlandwic, and Great Ilward, belonged to John Petre, Eſq., in 1622; as alſo another called Ouſe. There is an alms-houſe for two dwellers here, endowed with about two acres of land.

The church ſtands on a green, and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary: it conſiſts of a body and north aiſle. The chancel has a north chapel for a chantry. There are three bells in the tower, which is a large low building, with a ſhingled ſpire. The patronage of this rectory was for many years in the family of Baud. From 1391

to

to 1408 Sir Thomas Morwell and his widow preſented to it. It has been ever ſince in the lords of Corringham-hall, except for a few turns. A chantry was founded in this church by William Le Baud about the year 1328, endowed with about 100 acres of land in different pariſhes, held of the Biſhop of London by the ſervice of bringing at the high altar of the church of St. Paul's, London, one buck and one doe yearly. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 843*l.* The living ſtands in the king's books at 22*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and is not diſcharged.

FOBBING.

THIS pariſh has the Thames on the ſouth, into which a creek opens called Fobbing-creek, the mouth of which is called Hole-haven, near Shell-haven and Ridham-gap: it is north-eaſt of Corringham. In the time of the Confeſſor Brictmar, a thane, poſſeſſed this manor; and after the Conqueſt, it was for many years in Euſtace Earl of Boulogne. The manors of this pariſh are, that of Fobbing, and that of Hawkeſbury.

In the manor of Fobbing, the hall ſtands near the church. After Domeſday-book the oldeſt account that we have of this manor is, that Thomas Camvill held of the honour of Boulogne two fees in Fobbing and Senefield. The Camvill family appears to have made over their right to King Edward I. It was afterwards in the noble family of the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Eſſex. Eleanor, married to the Duke of Glouceſter, inherited it among other great eſtates. Anne, ſole heireſs to the Bohuns' eſtate, had this upon partition with King Henry V., it being then valued at 43*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* By her marriage with two Earls of Stafford ſhe brought the manor of Fobbing into that family. Humphrey, created Duke of Buckingham, was ſlain at the battle of Northampton in 1460, fighting for Henry VI. His widow, daughter of Ralph Neville, of Weſtmoreland, had the manor for her dowry: ſhe re-married Walter Blunt, Lord Mountjoy. Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was inſtrumental in aſſiſting Richard III. to his throne; but having attempted to dethrone him, loſt his head, and his eſtates were confiſcated. After the acceſſion of Henry VII. Jaſper Tudor, Earl of Hatfield, half-brother of Henry VI., Earl of Pembroke and Duke of Bedford, marrying Catherine Stafford, he inherited it in right of his wife. Edward, eldeſt ſon of Henry Duke of Buckingham, being re-

ſtored to his title and eſtates, enjoyed them till May 1521, when he was beheaded through the intrigues of Cardinal Wolſey, and thus forfeited his eſtates. Henry VIII. in 1522 granted the manor and advowſon of the church to Sir Thomas Buller and his heirs male, afterwards created Earls of Wiltſhire. His ſon being beheaded in 1537, the eſtate was given to Lady Mary, afterwards Queen, who had it in 1549; and Queen Elizabeth after her. George Tyrell poſſeſſed it in 1559 and 1565. In the reign of Charles I. the manor and demeſne lands were ſeparated. After that Sir George Whitmore, Knight, and Alderman of London, purchaſed the manor, and ſold it in 1682 to Sir Thomas Daval, who died in 1712. Sir Thomas, his ſon, married Lydia Catherine Vanhatten; ſhe re-married the Duke of Chandos, but enjoyed this manor as a jointure: it then went to Sir John Vanhatten. The court is kept at the hall, but upon courteſy. The demeſne lands belonged in the ſeventeenth century to John Wood; then to —— Lawſon; and next to John Goſſe; the laſt ſold them to Henry Saunders, who farmed the hall. Mr. Willoughby, who married one of his daughters, purchaſed the ſhares of the other ſiſters. The eſtate was afterwards purchaſed by Mr. Robert Johnſon of Low Layton, who died in 1749.

The manor of Hawkeſbury belonged formerly to the abbey of Barking; and at the ſuppreſſion the farm was let at 10*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* Henry VIII. granted it in 1544 to the dean and chapter of St. Paul, and their ſucceſſors; they have ever ſince enjoyed it. Here are ſome trees which have been a ſea-mark, and are called Hawkeſbury Buſh.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and ſtands pleaſantly on a riſing ground, from whence is an extenſive proſpect over the marſhes to the river. There is a ſouth aiſle belonging to both church and chancel, and a ſquare tower of ſtone, containing five bells. The rectory was appendant to the manor of Fobbing-hall, and continued in it till the attainder of the Duke of Buckingham, when it came to the crown, in which it has ever ſince remained. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 74*l.* The living is valued at 21*l.* in the king's books, and is not diſcharged.

FANGE, OR VANGE.

THIS pariſh ſtands to the north of Fobbing; and a creek runs up to it out of the Thames. The name appears to be taken from the Saxon word, which ſignifies a hold;

hold; but from what cauſe is not to be determined; unleſs the creek might have ſerved as a receptacle for the captives and booty taken from the inhabitants by the plundering Danes and Saxons. In the Confeſſor's reign the lands in this pariſh belonged to three freemen; at the time of the ſurvey they were divided into two manors. Odo Biſhop of Bayeux held what belonged to two of the freemen, and Ralph Peverell the other. They were early united into one manor. Vange-hall, the manſion-houſe, ſtands about half a mile north of the church; and is pleaſantly ſituated on a hill. This eſtate for many years went along with Haſſingbrook in the neighbouring pariſh of Stanford le Hope; and from about the year 1280 to 1577 was in the families of Montchenſy; Vere de Valence, Earl of Pembroke; Haſtings, alſo Earl of Pembroke; Rede, and Wetenhall. Thomas Wetenhall in 1577 alienated the manor to Thomas Newman, Gent., of Quendon, who died in 1585, leaving Anne, his only daughter and heireſs. In the mean time, in 1565 and 1572, William Tanfield, Eſq., was lord of the manor. John Baker, Eſq., held it in 1606. Sir Richard Baker, his ſon and heir, had it in 1625. Charles Tooker, who died in the ſame year, is alſo reported to have held the manor, with appurtenances, and the advowſon of the church, of the king in capite. After this the manors were divided. Paul Viſcount Banning had the manor, and compounded with the crown for diſforeſting it. The eſtate is now parcelled out. Two thirds of it came from the Tookers to Godfrey Thacker, Eſq., who ſold it to James Marrener, who, by will, gave it to his wife for life, and then to his two daughters: the other third was in William Aylett of Stifford.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, ſtands upon a riſing ground, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a ſpire, and only one bell. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor, excepting one turn, which John Oſborne had in 1557, and William Wiſeman in 1581 and 1609. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 39*l.*, and the living in the king's books valued at 50*l.*, and is diſcharged.

LANGDON.

TWO contiguous pariſhes of this name lie to the north of Fange, and of Corringham and Horndon on the Hill. The word means long hill, as the chief part of theſe two pariſhes ſtands high; and it was ſuppoſed that this is the higheſt ſpot of ground

in the county; but Danbury has been found by accurate ſurvey to be ſomewhat higher. The reaſon why Langdon-hill is ſuppoſed to be ſo high, is chiefly owing to a deception; for on the north ſide leading to it, the aſcent is eaſy and not much perceived; but to the ſouth, ſouth-eaſt, and ſouth-weſt, it opens into a moſt extenſive vale, which reaches up to London for a continuance of more than twenty miles: it affords a proſpect of that city, with the Thames and ſhipping, and Tilbury-fort; with the oppoſite coaſt of Kent to the Medway, if not further; and is from eaſt to weſt at leaſt forty miles. Thus may Eſſex boaſt of one of the moſt extenſive proſpects in England. The pariſh was divided afterwards into the manors of Langdon, and of Goldſmiths.

The manſion-houſe of the manor of Langdon ſtands on the ſide of a hill near the church. The next poſſeſſors of the eſtate, after the grandſon of Sweyn, were a family ſurnamed de Langdon. In Henry II.'s reign John de Langdon held one fee of the honour of Rayley. The family of Sutton appear to have been lords paramount; for in 1209, Robert de Sutton gave it in marriage with his daughter to William Bigod, Earl of Norfolk. The manor was ſeized into the king's hands on account of the death of John de Langdon without iſſue in 1382. The pariſh has ſince been united with Weſt Lee.

The manor of Goldſmiths, the manſion-houſe of which ſtands higher than the former manors, and towards the ſouth on the other ſide of the church, was called ſo from ſome owners, and ſeems to have gone for ſeveral years with that of Malgraves in Horndon, to which it is contiguous. John Malgrave in 1320 held it; and after that it came into the Tyrell family. Edward Archer, Eſq., held it afterwards; then Thomas Andrews, Eſq., whoſe daughter married Thomas Cotton, Eſq.; and their only daughter and heireſs brought it to Dingley Aſkham, Eſq., in marriage.

Weſt Lee is a pariſh about a mile from Langdon towards Vange, and was united to Langdon in 1432. The poverty of both places was alleged as a reaſon for the union, and the people of Weſt Lee have ever ſince reſorted to Langdon church, as their own has been taken down. It is unknown at preſent where it ſtood. Weſt Lee ſignifies the weſt paſture. This pariſh belonged at the time of the ſurvey to the canons of St. Paul's church in London, and has ever ſince continued in them. In the Confeſſor's reign it was held by Edeva. It is ſituated on the ſide of a hill, about three quarters of a mile from the church. Edward II. in 1313 granted this immunity to the manor: that no purveyor ſhould take away any corn for the king within

within its precincts. Fletchers and Nightingales are two farms which belonged to John Henniker, Esq. Here are also two farms settled by Thomas White, D.D., as an endowment for the professorship of moral philosophy at Oxford, founded by him in 1621, being about 100*l.* per annum: he gave besides, out of these farms, to five scholars of Magdalen-hall in Oxford, 8*l.* a year each, and 4*l.* to the principal. He also founded Sion College in London.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and stands on the western side of a hill; it is of one pace with the chancel, but the chancel has a north chapel. A wooden belfry, with a spire, contains two bells. The patronage of the rectory of Langdon-hill was in Bileigh-abbey till 1432. Upon the union of this church with that of Westley, the abbey reserved to itself two turns, and the third was allowed to the church of St. Paul; but ever since the dissolution the whole right of patronage has been in the dean and chapter of that church. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 574*l.*, and the living is valued in the king's books at 50*l.* per annum, and is discharged.

LANGDON AND BASILDON.

THIS parish, which lies north of the last, is called Langdon Clay from the nature of the soil. In it are two manors, that of Langdon and of Gobyons.

The manor of Langdon belonged before the Conquest to a woman named Alfened; and at the time of the survey, to the Bishop of London, in whose see it has ever since continued. Ulmar held a part in the Confessor's reign; and after him Ralph. In 1290 Edward I. confirmed to the Bishop of London a view of frankpledge here; and the year after, the Bishop enclosed his wood in Langdon called the Fryth, with the adjacent demesne lands, and made a park within the bounds of the forest of Essex. The Fryth was the manor-house where courts are kept.

Gobyons took its name from an ancient family, who had estates in this county. The manor-house is about a mile west of the church near Dunton. In 1334 Thomas Gobyon, junior, and Elizabeth his wife, held 20*l.* in land and rents in Langdon, of the king in capite. John Gobyon held it in 1396 of the Countess of Stafford, and the manor of Sturmines of the Bishop of London. His daughter brought it in marriage to William Gaynsford. John Puckle in 1617 gave all his copyhold lands for the

the maintenance of a ſchool-maſter to teach a competent number of children of Baſildon and Langdon; the farm was ſaid to be 16*l.* per annum.

The church ſtands upon riſing ground, and is dedicated to St. Nicolas: it conſiſts of a body and ſouth aiſle; the chancel is only of one pace. It has a ſteeple of timber, and a ſhingled ſpire. This valuable rectory has been always in the collation of the Biſhops of London. The parſonage-houſe is a very ancient building, and lies in a bottom between Langdon church and Baſildon. A well-endowed chantry was founded in this church in 1329. In the book of chantries it was valued at 8*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* This pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 768*l.* The living of Langdon, which is united with Baſildon, is valued in the king's books at 36*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and is not diſcharged.

BASILDON.

THIS place is a large hamlet belonging to Langdon. It contains the three following manors: that of Barſtaple-hall; that of Beleſdun, or Botelers; and that of Bartleſdon, or Battleſwick: to which is added Eaſt Lee.

Barſtaple-hall lies about half a mile from Baſildon church towards Fange. An ancient tradition ſubſiſts here, that an old town ſtood about this ſpot, or at leaſt within the hamlet. In a paſture field near the church, called Townfield, foundations of buildings have been ploughed up, and large quantities of human bones have been diſcovered in the garden belonging to the parſonage. In the Confeſſor's reign a freeman poſſeſſed this manor, which at the time of the ſurvey belonged to the Biſhop of Bayeux. The preſent manor-houſe of Barſtaple-hall is an ancient building upon a riſing ground; it is now deſerted for another houſe in a lower ſituation, where good water is to be found, and where the farmer now lives. No owner's name is mentioned till the time of Edward III.'s reign; and after that time the lord of the manor held alſo the hundred under the king. Edmund of Woodſtock, Earl of Kent, appears to have been lord here. Humphrey de Walden held it in 1330. It continued in the Waldens till 1419, when John Walden dying was ſucceeded by his two ſiſters; Catharine, wife of John Barle, junior; and Margaret, wife of Henry Langley. Catherine, wife of John Marſhall, held the manor: ſhe died in 1517; her huſband in 1520. They had two daughters coheireſſes; Eleanor, wife of Henry Cutt, ſon of Sir John Cutt, of Thaxted; and Mary, wife of John Cutt. Eleanor held

held the manor. Peter Cutt in 1547 died poſſeſſed of it. It belonged lately to —— Coleman, Eſq., of Iſleworth, and then to Charles Brown, Gent.

Little Barſtaple is mentioned as a manor in this pariſh, which William Sandell held in 1562: he alſo held a meſſuage and lands here called Bacons.

The manor of Beleſdun, or Botelers. At the time of the ſurvey Sweyn of Eſſex held this and the adjoining one of Battleſwick. Botelers, in the reign of the Confeſſor, had belonged to Lefstan, and the other to Goda, a freeman. The manſion-houſe ſtands a ſhort way ſouth of the church, and is moated round. This manor conſiſted of one capital meſſuage, called Butlers, in Bartleſdon; another, called Edgcotts, in Crayes; and other meſſuages held of the honour of Mandeville. The family of De Vere held both theſe eſtates according to the earlieſt accounts. Wido de Bertleſdon held it at the time of Henry III. John De Vere, Earl of Oxford, about the years 1350 and 1358 had it; and under him Robert Travers and his heirs poſſeſſed it. After that it came into the family of Cornwallis. John Cornwallis died in 1536. Sir Charles Cornwallis ſold it to Sir Robert Wrothe, who died in 1606. His ſon, Sir Robert, ſold it to Henry Atkins, M.D.; from whom it came to Martin Bowes, Eſq., late of Bury St. Edmunds, in Suffolk; and afterwards to his three daughters, one of whom married Philip Broke, Eſq.

The manor of Battleſwick was anciently called Bartleſdon: its manſion-houſe ſtands near the church. John De Vere, Earl of Oxford, had this manor, and it continued in this noble family till they were deprived of their eſtates in 1472 by act of parliament for their adherence to the houſe of Lancaſter. Edward IV. gave them to his brother the Duke of Glouceſter, afterward Richard III., who granted the manor of Langdon to John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, which the Earl of Oxford had forfeited by attainder. But Henry VII. reinſtated that family in the eſtates. John, thirteenth Earl of Oxford, died in poſſeſſion of the manor of Battleſwick in 1512. The two laſt mentioned manors hold no courts.

Eaſt Lee is about a mile from Langdon church. It was formerly called a manor, and belonged to the family of Bohun, but is now only a farm-houſe, ſituated on riſing ground. It is a diſtinct place, and pays no tithes, either to this pariſh, or Langdon-hills. There is very little account of it. Sir Brian Tuke, who died in 1545, held it. Queen Elizabeth granted it in 1591, with the advowſon there, to Henry Beſt and John Wells. Lord Petre had the lands in 1622 at his death. It belonged lately to William Petre, Eſq., of Newhouſe, in Writtle. Here was formerly a chapel, now demoliſhed,

demoliſhed, but the ſite of it is ſtill viſible. It was either built originally for a chantry, or one was founded there afterwards. The chapel of Baſildon is a chapel of eaſe to Langdon. It ſtands on a riſing ground, about two miles from the church. The parſonage-houſe is in a valley between them. The chapel is a neat building, and in good repair, of one pace with the chancel. It has an embattled tower, with a ſhort ſpire. Baſildon is rated to the land-tax at 456*l.* Here is a fair on Holyrood-day, September 14th, and one day more, to which there is great reſort.

NEWENDEN.

THIS pariſh lies in a bottom, which is the reaſon of the latter part of the name, ſignifying a valley; the firſt part is derived from the Saxon word new, or from another word meaning low. If the Saxons ſettled firſt in this part of the country, as is ſuppoſed, this might be one of the new ſettlements wherewith they enlarged their quarters. In the Confeſſor's reign the lands in this pariſh were divided into three parcels belonging to Alouard Dore, to a freeman, and to Aluuin. At the time of the ſurvey Roger Mareſchall had the firſt, Hagheben the ſecond, and ſome one elſe the third. There are two manors in this pariſh: the manor of Newenden, or Little Bromford; and that of Frerne, or Fryerne.

The manor of Bromford, of which the manſion ſtands near the church, is ſo named from its owner, and is reckoned the chief in this pariſh. In 1419 John Sumpter, of Colcheſter, delivered to John Tyrell, John Cornwallis, and others, a moiety of the manor of Bromfords, in Newenden, with the advowſon of the church. It ſeems to have been divided in order to ſettle a part of it upon the hoſpital of St. Mary, in Biſhopgate Without, in which it continued till the diſſolution. Sir Lewis John, who died in 1442, held the manor, with the advowſon, of the Earl of Stafford. Henry Fitz-Lewis, his ſon, held it; his heireſs was Mary, wife of Antony Wideville, Lord Rivers. In 1522 William Fitz-Lewis and Anne his wife paſſed this eſtate by fine to William Berdeford; and in 1537 it paſſed from Ralph Symonds and his wife to Sir John Mordaunt. Richard Robotham, Gent., was lord of this manor in 1610. —— Alexander, Eſq., purchaſed this eſtate, and then it belonged to Joſhua Blackmore.

The manor of Frerne, or Fryerne, appears to have been taken from Bromfords about the time of Henry V., and given to the hoſpital of St. Mary Biſhopgate. King

Henry VIII. granted it to the mayor and corporation of London; but it did not continue with them any length of time; for in 1563 William Dunch and Henry Coddenham alienated the manor to Sir William Petre, who died in poſſeſſion of it in 1571. By the preſentations to the living it appears to have been in the families of Wakefield and Hoare from 1662 to 1678. It afterwards belonged to the family of Galliard. The chantry, chapel, or hoſpital of Melton, near Graveſend, in Kent, had the chief of its endowment in this pariſh. It was conſiderable, and in 1524 was granted to Sir Henry Wyatt by Henry VIII.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and is of one pace with the chancel. It contains only one bell. The rectory is ſaid to be appendant on the manor. It was at firſt appendant on the manor of Little Bromfords; but ſince the year 1574 it has been in the gift of one of the lords of the manor of Great Bromfords, or Frerne. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 324*l.* The living is valued in the king's books at 40*l.* per annum, and is diſcharged.

WICKFORD.

THIS pariſh lies in a narrow place between Newenden and Downham, and is bounded on the north by part of Chelmsford hundred, and on the eaſt by part of Rochford. It derives the name from a ford through the river Crouch near a wic, which is a Saxon word, and ſignifies a caſtle, or the winding of a river. In the reign of the Confeſſor, Wickford comprehended four manors; beſides four other parcels. Sweyn of Eſſex, and Odo Biſhop of Bayeux, had lands here at the time of the ſurvey. Theſe eſtates were afterwards united to the neighbouring pariſhes. There are at preſent here only two conſiderable eſtates, Wickford-hall and Stylemans. The latter holds courts, but the former does not.

Wickford-hall ſtands near the church, and was part of Sweyn's lands. It remained in the crown after the forfeiture of Henry de Eſſex, Sweyn's grandſon, till Richard I. granted it to Ulric, commander of his croſs-bowmen: it remained in his poſterity till 1307. John Plantagenet, Earl of Kent, had it in 1352. It is not aſcertained in whoſe hands it was till the reign of Henry VIII. In 1511 Elizabeth, widow of Sir John Pound, had it. Sir Henry Radcliffe had it after it had remained in the former family ſome time: his wife alienated it to Arthur Harrys, Eſq. In the laſt

century Edmund Godwin, of Hook's-hall, in Surry, ſold it to Richard Vaughan, Eſq., of Shenfield-hall.

Stylemans manſion-houſe ſtood about half a mile north-weſt of the church, on the north ſide of the river near Runwell, but has been taken down many years. Courts-leet are kept here; and at the court two conſtables are choſen. There is no account of this eſtate till of late, when Mr. Robert Cheſter gave it to his ſiſter's ſon, Mr. John Moor. The eſtate after this came into the Hall family. A manor in Wickford, part of the poſſeſſions of Henry de Eſſex, was granted by Henry III. in 1226 to Hubert de Burgh, when he created him Earl of Kent.

The church ſtands in a pleaſant ſituation on a riſing ground, and is of one pace with the chancel. It has a ſpire, and two bells. The church was given by Robert de Eſſex to the priory of Prittlewell, which was founded by him. The priory preſented to this rectory, except when their revenues were ſeized by the crown as belonging to an alien priory, and continued poſſeſſed of the advowſon till their diſſolution. Before the year 1551 Edward VI. granted it away; and it came afterwards to the lords of the manor of Stylemans. Wickford is rated to the land-tax at 558*l.* The rectory in the king's books is valued at 14*l.*, and is not diſcharged. There are two geldables in the pariſh, which is a Saxon word, and ſignifies taxable or tributable. They are joined in the taxes with Wickford, and bear a third part in the king's tax. One third part of the conſtable's rate is alſo paid to them, and they have nothing further to do in the pariſh. Theſe geldables extend into the neighbouring pariſhes of Rawreth, Runwell, and South Hanningfield. Rawreth hamlet is rated to the land-tax at 134*l.*, and Runwell geldable at 98*l.*

PITSEY.

THIS pariſh lies ſouth-weſt of the river Thames, which here forms a peninſula; and in the weſtern branch is Pitſey creek. The ſituation gave occaſion to the latter part of the name, the Saxon word ſignifying an iſland or water, and the firſt ſyllable is derived from a pit or pitch. The wife of Phin had the eſtate before the Conqueſt. Soon after the Conqueſt it belonged to Eudo Dapifer, ſteward to the Conqueror; he made it part of the endowment of his abbey of St. John's, Colcheſter, except the manor of Chalvedon.

Pitſey-

Pitſey-hall manſion-houſe lies down at the bottom of the hill below the church near the channel. A creek comes up to the door. The abbot and convent held this manor till the diſſolution of monaſteries. In 1539 Henry VIII. granted the manor and advowſon to Thomas Lord Cromwell. Upon his attainder in 1540 they reverted to the crown, and were given for the maintenance of the Princeſs, afterwards Queen Mary. Queen Elizabeth in 1562 granted this manor and other lands to Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk. Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, in 1581 alienated it with the advowſon to Roger Townſhend, Eſq., and Edward Cook, Gent. In 1582 Roger Townſhend alienated them to Edward Cook alone. Sir Edward Cooke, Knight, held the manor in 1618. The eſtate was in 1664 in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Samuel Moyer, merchant.

The manor of Chalvedon, or Chandewell. The manſion-houſe is old and large, and lies in the bottom between Newenden and Pitſey Street. After the year 1285, which is the earlieſt account of this land, it was in the prior of St. Mary's hoſpital in Biſhopgate Without; and in 1386 Walter Lord Fitz-Walter held the ſame eſtate: it does not appear how much, or whether all of it, was in the prior of Biſhopgate, and forfeited at the ſuppreſſion. King Henry VIII. granted this manor to Thomas Lord Cromwell; after his attainder it reverted to the king, who aſſigned it as part of the maintenance of his daughter Mary. In 1562 Queen Elizabeth granted the manor and lordſhip to Thomas Duke of Norfolk; ſhe had it again after his attainder, and gave it to his ſon: he was created Earl of Suffolk. It afterwards came into the Preſcott family of Thoby Priory.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and ſtands high, as do the chief of thoſe which are dedicated to that Archangel. There is a delightful proſpect from it: it is of one pace with the chancel, and has a ſpire. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor of Pitſey-hall; many years in the gift of St. John's abbey of Colcheſter, and ſince that time in thoſe who have enjoyed that manor. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 527*l.* The living is valued at 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* in the king's books, and is not diſcharged.

BURES, OR BUERS, GIFFORD.

THIS pariſh is diſtinguiſhed by the ancient name of its owners the Giffords, from the other Buers in Lexden hundred, in this county, called Mount Buers. The

lands of this parish were in different hands, both before and after the Conquest: they were afterwards, for some ages, in one person's possession. Subsequently to that they were divided into the manors of Buers Gifford, and of Earls or Eagles fee. In the reign of Henry II. Robert de Liburne held Bures, and Robert de Sutton under him, by the serjeantcy of scalding the king's hogs. Robert de Sutton gave in marriage with his daughter to William, a younger son of Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, all his lands in Sutton and in Bures, and the advowson of the church. After this it came into the ancient family of Gifford, in whom it remained till 1348. The Gifford family failing of issue, John De Vere, seventh Earl of Oxford, possessed lands here, and his posterity were lords paramount; the two manors were some years before divided.

Bowers-hall is first mentioned in Buers Gifford about the year 1346. Robert Travers held it in 1347, and then John Gerard. A family named St. Nicholas had it next; Henry Baker in 1494. The right of presentation to the living continued in the Baker family till the reign of James I., when the estate went away amongst some female heirs. The Earls of Oxford presented twice in 1537 and 1541, during the minority of James Baker. It was afterwards divided, with the advowson, among the daughters of Henry Baker in 1631. The eldest married William Boughton, Esq., of Warwickshire: the second married Thomas Boughton, Esq., his brother: the youngest married Sir Thomas Bendich, from whom Edward Cockain, of London, bought one turn of the advowson. Sir Edward Boughton in 1662 sold for 3000*l.* the estate of Bowers Gifford-hall, with appurtenances, and the third part of the rectory, to Edmund Lewen, Esq. His son disposed of them to John Slaughter, or Slater, of London, who imagined he had purchased the whole advowson instead of every third vacancy. He left the estate for his life to his wife, and then to his son.

Bowers Gifford, the manor-house, stands near the church. The old house was a large building, moated round, but has been pulled down, and the present one erected in its place.

Earls fee was that portion of the parish which remained the fee or estate of the Earls of Oxford, after they had granted part of it to their tenants. The mansion-house, which is much larger and better than Bowers-hall, lies down in the marshes, about a quarter of a mile below the church, on a creek where vessels of considerable burthen may come up. The Earls of Oxford had this estate as early as the reign of Edward III., but it was not denominated Earls fee till the year 1513. It continued

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in the Earls of Oxford till after the year 1570, when it came into the Reade family, in which it continued for above 130 years. Henry Reade ſold this eſtate in 1747 to George Montgomery, Eſq. Muſſels is an eſtate here, and belongs to the Kingſman family.

The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is of one pace with the chancel. It has a ſpire. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor of Bowers-hall. It was originally in the gift of the ancient lords the Giffords: then in the gift of the Fitz-Nicolas family; then in the Baker family to 1631, when the right of preſentation was divided among the three coheireſſes. The right of the eldeſt is now in the gift of the lords of Bowers Gifford-hall; the right of the ſecond was purchaſed by John Laws, who ſold it to Francis Clark, L. L. D., who gave his right to his ſiſter, the wife of Joſeph Moyer; and the right of the third paſſed from Edward Cockayne, of London, to Jaſper Kingſman, Eſq. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 73*l.* The rectory remains in charge, and is valued in the king's books at 25*l.* per annum.

BEMFLEET.

BEMFLEET is the name of two contiguous pariſhes here, lying north and ſouth of each other, and thus diſtinguiſhed. The firſt part of the name is derived from the Saxon word, which ſignifies beam, tree, or poſt, as the place when firſt diſcovered was found to be woody; ſome ſuppoſe it to be taken from Bana, a murderer, and Bena, a beggar: the latter ſyllable ſignifies a bay, or gulf, as it was the uſual landing-place of the Danes when they infeſted theſe coaſts in the ninth century. Hæſten, the Daniſh plunderer, built about the year 893 a caſtle or fortification at Bemfleet, where he depoſited his ſpoils, and kept a large garriſon: but in 894 King Alfred drove away the garriſon, demoliſhed the caſtle, and took Hæſten's wife and two ſons priſoners, with all the booty, and carried them to London. They alſo burnt or deſtroyed moſt of the Daniſh ſhips which they found here, and carried the reſt to London or Rocheſter. Theſe two pariſhes were not then divided, but went by the common name of Bemfleet.

North Bemfleet belonged, in the reign of the Confeſſor, to Earl Harold, afterwards King of England. The manſion-houſe ſtands near the church. The other part of the manor, which was held by Sweyn, and afterwards under him by a family named

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De Coggeſhall, completed the manor of Coggeſhall, which has been long ſince united to the other, now called the manor of North Bemfleet, alias Coggeſhalls. According to the earlieſt accounts which are given, about the reign of Henry III. it was in a family ſurnamed De Bemflett; but the chief part of it was in a family ſurnamed De Plumberg, of the neighbouring pariſh of Hockley; and then in the Coggeſhall family. Alice of this latter family brought this eſtate in marriage to Sir John Tyrell of Heron, and that of Jarvais in South Bemfleet. It continued with them till Sir Ralph Wiſeman, Knight, of Rivenſhall, who died in 1603, held the manor. Sir William Wiſeman alienated it to Edmund Godwin, who in 1694 ſold it to John Wilmer, merchant, of London, deſcended from that family of Northamptonſhire, in whom it has ſince remained.

The manor of Berdfelds, otherwiſe called Bradvilles, and now Browfords, furniſhes little for any account of it. Richard Lee, Eſq., in 1497 held the manor. Thomas Wiſeman, at the time of his death in 1584, had it alſo; his daughters and coheirs were Elizabeth, wife of Richard Jennings, and Dorothy Wiſeman. In 1615 George Pomfret was in poſſeſſion of it, and held it of Sir Henry Appleton, Knight and Baronet.

Fanhall, another manor here, about a mile north of the church, was the property of John Ruſſell, Eſq., of North Okenden. There are alſo other lands in the pariſh.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is of one pace with the chancel. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor of North Bemfleet. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 574*l.* The value of the living in the king's books is eſtimated at 16*l.*, and is not diſcharged.

SOUTH BEMFLEET.

THIS pariſh is ſeparated from Canvey Iſland by a creek, which by its paſſing Hadley is called Hadley-ray, a word derived from the old French, and ſignifying river, coaſt, or bank. It is alſo called Great Bemfleet. In the reign of the Confeſſor part of this pariſh belonged to St. Mary's at Barking. But William the Conqueror took it from that nunnery, and gave it to Weſtminſter-abbey. Another part which a freeman had in the Confeſſor's reign, Sweyn held at the time of the ſurvey. From

theſe, three different manors were taken: that belonging to Weſtminſter-abbey, that of South Bemfleet, and that of Jarvis.

The manor of the abbey had an addition to its demeſnes by ſeveral donations. The manor and demeſnes continued in the abbey till the ſuppreſſion, when they came to the crown. When it was converted into a foundation for a dean and prebendaries, Henry VIII. made the manors of Bonville and Bemfleet part of their endowment; which, notwithſtanding the ſucceſſive alterations in that church, have ever ſince continued in it. Queen Elizabeth in 1560 confirmed theſe and other manors to them, adding at the ſame time the rectory and advowſon of the vicarage.

The manors of South Bemfleet and Jarvis are that part of the pariſh which was Sweyn's. South Bemfleet-hall ſtands on the north ſide of the church, and Jarvis-hall about a mile north of the ſame. The latter was anciently called North Mayes, alias Jervis Hill, from its ſituation. The moſt ancient owners of this eſtate, after Henry de Eſſex, were a family ſurnamed De Woodham. William de Woodham died in 1280. The next poſſeſſor of this eſtate upon record is John de Coggeſhall. Alice, daughter of Sir William Coggeſhall above mentioned, was married to Sir John Tyrell of Herons. Joice, daughter of Sir Robert Tyrell, brought this eſtate in marriage to her huſband, Thomas Appleton, Eſq. Elizabeth Appleton, daughter of Sir William, the laſt of the family, brought this eſtate, which was very conſiderable, to her huſband, Richard Vaughan, Eſq., of Shenfield-place, in whoſe family it continued. The manor of Jarvis-hall containing 6620 acres, and that of South Bemfleet containing 3000 acres, and the farms of Leigh Park containing about 180 acres, were diſforeſted by the Appletons, in conſideration of 500*l.* paid to the crown. There were other lands alſo diſforeſted, which amounted to ſome thouſand acres.

Rich-marſh, ſince called Richneſſe, was the endowment of a chantry founded in the cathedral of St. Paul in 1239 by the dean of that church. It was granted after the ſuppreſſion to others. There is alſo mention made of a manor called Whitehalle.

The church is ſituated in the ſtreet on riſing ground, and is a lofty handſome edifice: it is dedicated to St. Mary. It conſiſts of a body and two aiſles; with pillars of the Tuſcan order. The tower is of ſtone, and has a ſpire ſhingled, containing five bells. The church was, with the manor, given to Weſtminſter-abbey by the Conqueror. The great tithes were afterwards appropriated to that abbey, and a

vicarage

vicarage ordained, of which they continued patrons till the ſuppreſſion, when they came to the crown; but were both granted by Queen Elizabeth to the dean and chapter of Weſtminſter, in whom they have ever ſince continued. Dr. Francis Clerke in 1743 paved the chancel of this church with marble, and by his will ordered an organ to be erected, with a ſalary of 30*l.* per annum for the organiſt. He is nominated and appointed by the corporatien of the ſons of the clergy. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 82*l.* The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 50*l.*, and is diſcharged. There is a fair in the pariſh on the 24th of Auguſt.

THUNDERSLEY.

THUNDERSLEY lies to the eaſt of this hundred adjoining to that of Rochford. The name, derived from two Saxon words, denotes Thunder's paſture ground; but from what it aroſe is not known. In the reign of the Confeſſor, Godric, one of the king's thanes, was owner of the lordſhips, which at the time of the ſurvey were part of Sweyn's large poſſeſſions. It was afterwards divided into the manors of Thunderſley and of Buſches.

The manſion-houſe of the manor of Thunderſley ſtands about half a mile north of the church. Upon the forfeiture of Henry de Eſſex this eſtate became veſted in the crown. About the reign of Henry II. it belonged to a family, ſurnamed Fitz-Barnard. In 1313 Thomas Le Fitz-Barnard paſſed the eſtate to Bartholomew de Baddleſmere by fine. He gave it in exchange to King Edward II. for the manor of Bourne, in Suſſex. Edward III. in 1329 granted it to John Le Sturmy and his heirs. The crown purchaſed it in 1367 for the purpoſe of adding it to Rayley caſtle, which belonged to the royal family. In 1390 Richard II. granted it to Edmund Duke of York, fifth ſon of Edward III. The eſtate continued in the crown till Edward VI. granted the diſparked part of it to William Parre, Earl of Eſſex and Northampton, who was attainted for adhering to the cauſe of Lady Jane Grey. But before his attainder he granted away the park to Edward Bury, and Kenelm Throgmorton, Eſq.; the latter in 1550 conveyed it to Thomas Geſting. The manor of Thunderſley continued in the crown from 1422 to 1553, when Edward VI. granted it to Suſan Tonge. Queen Mary added to it the advowſon of the church, which ſhe retained till her death, when George White, Eſq., of Hutton, her nephew and heir,

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in 1584, became the poſſeſſor. His ſon in 1595 alienated it to Francis Fitche, Gent. It was after that, with the advowſon, in Robert Wiſeman in 1619; Robert Smyth, then Thomas Dawling, and his ſon. John Ange, Eſq., of Upton, ſold it in 1720 to Robert Surman, Eſq., for the ſum of 4600*l.*, its yearly rent being at that time 160*l.* Edward Turner purchaſed it next; and he left it to his nephew, Edward Montgomery, Eſq.

The manor of Buſches, otherwiſe Burſhes, was ſo called from William Buſch, who held it in 1309. It afterwards belonged to the new hoſpital of St. Mary Biſhopgate Without, and upon the ſuppreſſion, coming to the crown, was granted to John De Vere, Earl of Oxford, in 1545. John Warner held it in 1552; and in 1556 it went to Thomas Newdigate, the next heir. That family ſold it to Henry Songar, Gent.; next year it was diſpoſed of to Bartholomew Averell. It was ſince in Captain Crowder, of London.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and ſtands on an eminence, from whence there is a good proſpect. It conſiſts of a body and two aiſles. The rectory belonged to the priory of Prittlewell till the ſuppreſſion: it then came to the crown. Queen Mary granted it to Tonge, and it has ſince paſſed, together with the manor, to the families of White, Wiſeman, Smyth, Dawling, Ange, Turner, and Montgomery. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 445*l.* 2*s.* The rectory in the king's books is valued at 49*l.*, and is diſcharged.

CANVEY.

CANVEY is an iſland which lies between Bemfleet and Hadley, and is encompaſſed by branches of the river Thames. There is a paſſage over it acroſs the ſtrand at low water. It is about five miles in length and two in breadth, and contains 3600 acres. It is no pariſh of itſelf, but pays taxes and tithes to the following pariſhes: North and South Bemfleet, Bowers Gifford, Pitſey, Fange, Langdon, and Baſildon; and to three pariſhes within the hundred of Rochford, Lee, Prittlewell, and South Church. There are about fifty dwellings in the iſland. Camden ſuppoſes it juſtly to be the Convennos mentioned in Ptolemy's Geography. The moſt ancient poſſeſſors of lands in this iſland upon record are, Edward Baker, Eſq., who in 1543 held marſhes here. In 1557 Sir Roger Appleton held lands or marſhes here. The iſland

being ſubject to be overflowed by high tides, Sir Henry Appleton and others, owners of lands, agreed to give one third of the lands in fee-ſimple to Joas Croppenburg, a Dutchman, a dyke-maker, as a compenſation to him for protecting the iſland by this means from the overflowing. The agreement was made by a decree of the court of chancery in 1663; and the third of the lands now goes towards the repairs of the ſea walls. A timber chapel was built here for the uſe of the Dutch inhabitants employed in the undertaking. That falling into decay, another was built at the expence of Mr. Edgar, an officer in the victualling-office: it was conſecrated in 1712. This alſo decaying, another was built in 1745, partly by a contribution of the inhabitants, but chiefly by the benefaction of Daniel Scratton, Eſq. He made over alſo part of the tithes to pay 10*l.* a year to the vicar of Prittlewell to perform divine ſervice here; and 10*l.* a year more to the miniſter to preach twenty ſermons in St. Catharine's chapel in this iſland. About 17*l.* per annum is paid to the miniſter by the incumbents of the nine pariſhes which receive tithes out of this place. The iſland is ſtill ſubject to inundations at particular periods; one of the moſt remarkable was in 1736, when about half the cattle were drowned. A cow and ſome hogs happening to ſtand upon a dunghill, were preſerved by the dunghill ſtopping againſt a bank, although they were carried near a mile over a deep creek.

There is a fair here annually on the 25th of June.

Chelmsford Hundred.

THIS hundred, which is ſituated in the middle of the county, derives many advantages which the other hundreds cannot enjoy. The land is in general very good; and it abounds with gentlemen's ſeats. The hundred is in the diſpoſal of the ſheriff of Eſſex during the time being. It contains thirty pariſhes; of which the following belong to the part within the limits of this work: Chelmsford, Springfield, Sandon, Eaſt, Weſt, and South Haningfield, Ruttenden, Runwell, Mountneyſing, Ingateſtone, Butſbury, Stock, Margaretting, Frierning, Blackmore, Widford, Writtle, Roxwell, Bromfield, Chicknal St. James, Chicknal Smeley.

CHELMSFORD.

CHELMSFORD.

THIS town gives name both to the deanery and hundred; it is rather large and populous, and is about twenty-nine miles from London. It derived the name from a ford through the river Chelmer. It is ſituated at the confluence of two rivers; the Can, which flows from the ſouth-ſouth-weſt; and the Chelmer, from the north. The town is a great thoroughfare from London to Colcheſter, Harwich, and Suffolk. The aſſizes and all quarter ſeſſions are held here. The elections are here made for members of parliament; and a new county gaol of Portland ſtone has been lately erected, and which does great credit to the county. A large and plentiful market is held here on Fridays; and there are annually two fairs; one on the firſt of May, the other on the firſt of November. It is well ſupplied with water, there being an excellent conduit in the market-place, from which runs every minute an hogſhead and half, conveyed through the town in a limpid ſtream. By an account taken in 1738 there were found to be 2151 inhabitants; but they have conſiderably increaſed of late years, as well as the buildings.

In the reign of the Confeſſor, and at the time of the ſurvey, Chelmsford was part of the poſſeſſions of the Biſhops of London; and to them it is indebted for its exiſtence and grandeur. It was a very inconſiderable place in the reign of Henry I. about the year 1100, when Maurice Biſhop of London built a bridge over the river here, which brought the road, which before lay through Writtle, to this place. About an hundred years after, William de Sancta-Maria, Biſhop of London, obtained licence for a market here from King John, and for a fair the year following. King Edward I. confirmed the privileges of the town, which once returned four members to a council at Weſtminſter. There are two manors in this pariſh, Biſhop's-hall, Moulſham-hall, and part of Bekeſwell.

The manor of Biſhop's-hall was that part which belonged to the Biſhops of London, and was called the manor of Chelmsford, or Biſhop's-hall. The manſion-houſe ſtands on the north ſide of the town, near the parſonage, and the river about half a mile from the church. The town and manor continued in the Biſhops of London till 1545, when Edmund Bonner granted them, with the advowſon of the church, to Henry VIII., his heirs and ſucceſſors; which grant was confirmed by the dean and chapter of St. Paul's. Theſe premiſes continued in the crown till

1563, when Queen Elizabeth granted the manor of Chelmsford, with Biſhop's-hall, and the manſion-houſe and capital manſion of the manor, to Thomas Mildmay and his heirs. It has ſince that time been poſſeſſed by his poſterity.

The manor and hamlet of Moulſham adjoins to Chelmsford, and is divided from it by the river Can. It was held by the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Weſtminſter. It remained in their poſſeſſion till the ſuppreſſion of the monaſteries, when it came to the crown. In 1540 Henry VIII. granted it to Thomas Mildmay for a valuable conſideration at twenty years purchaſe. The manſion-houſe ſtands on the left-hand ſide of the road leading to London. It was rebuilt in a magnificent manner by Benjamin Earl Fitz-Walter, under the direction of Leoni, the celebrated architect. It is of a quadrangular form, incloſing a court, and commands a view of Danbury-hill.

The manor of Bekeſwell is alſo part of this hamlet of Moulſham, and was included in the grant of Thomas Mildmay. It was formerly called Bekeſwell, but now Bexfield. The houſe ſtands on the right-hand ſide of the road leading from Chelmsford to Stock and Billericay, at the entrance of Gallow-wood common. Francis Battrene held this eſtate in the reign of Edward I., and gave it to John de Inſula de Burglee, Knight, who in 1334 granted it to Henry de Burgherſh, Biſhop of Lincoln, and his heirs. Lord Burgherſh was his heir. Edward Le Deſpencer next poſſeſſed it by his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Burgherſh; but it did not remain long with him, for four years after it was in Sir Thomas Tyrell, Knight, and his wife. It was next granted to Weſtminſter-abbey by King Richard II. That monaſtery had alſo lands and tenements in this hamlet, but not ſpecified by name, which were once in the poſſeſſion of Roger Baſſet, of Sutton. At the diſſolution all the premiſes became veſted in the crown, and King Henry VIII. granted them at that time to Thomas Mildmay, Eſq.

On the ſouth ſide of the river, in the hamlet of Moulſham, was formerly a houſe of Dominican friars. The ſite of it is now called the Friars, and lies a little above the gaol. The building was of a mixture of flint and free-ſtone; the kitchen was curious on account of the roof, it being like that of the Theatre at Oxford. There are now no remains of it apparent. This houſe at the ſuppreſſion was valued at 9*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.* per annum. Henry VIII. granted it to Antony Bonvixi. It afterwards came into the Mildmay family, where it continued. Thomas Langford, a Domini-

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can friar, lived in this houſe about the year 1320; he wrote an univerſal chronicle from the beginning of the world to his own time, and other pieces.

A chapel, formerly belonging to St. Oſyth's abbey, ſtood in a field called Long Champs, between Moulſham-hall and Gallow-common, built by that abbey, which had part of the tithes of Moulſham. Several ſtones, with braſſes upon them, have been diſcovered there. At the diſſolution this chapel and tithes, which were valued at 5*l.* per annum, were let to William Aylenoth. Henry VIII. granted the ſite of this chapel, with appurtenances, and a moiety of the tithes of Moulſham, belonging to the abbey of St. Oſyth, to William Gonſon, Eſq., and his heirs. His daughter having married Henry Mildmay, Eſq., brought this eſtate into that family.

In 1348 Edward III. granted leave to Philip de Aungre and his wife to give to the keeper and chaplains of the chantry at the altar of St. Mary de Thele in Hertfordſhire, and to their ſucceſſors, certain abbey lands in this pariſh.

Edward VI. in 1552 granted leave to Sir Walter Mildmay, Sir Henry Tyrell, and Thomas Mildmay, Eſq., and the inhabitants of Moulſham and adjacent parts, to erect a free grammar-ſchool in the pariſh of Chelmsford for ever, to be called by the name of Edward VI., under the inſpection of a maſter and uſher. He conſtituted the four above-named governors for life, and their heirs for ever; and in default of iſſue, &c., then it was in the biſhops of the dioceſe to appoint four governors of the orders of knights in their room. He gave it a liberal endowment, and made them a body corporate and politic for ever by the name of the governors of the poſſeſſions, revenues, and goods of the free-ſchool of King Edward VI. in the pariſh of Chelmsford. They have a ſeal of braſs, on which is engraven a roſe, with an inſcription. The old ſchool-room fell in while the maſter and ſcholars were fortunately at dinner; in conſequence of which a new room was built; Sir John Tyrell being manager at the time, purchaſed part of the George inn and of the yard and garden, and greatly added to it; ſince which time it has been much enlarged by Lord Fitz-Walter and the ſubſequent truſtees. There are two charity-ſchools in this town, one founded in 1713 for fifty boys, the other for twenty girls in 1714. But the number of boys has of late years been reduced. The ſchool-houſe ſtands at the north-eaſt corner of the church-yard, in a lane leading to the parſonage and to Biſhop's-hall. A houſe has been lately purchaſed for the maſter, with a ſalary of 30*l.* per annum. In 1716, a

ſhort

ſhort way from this ſchool, a work-houſe was erected: it is a large brick building. Here are alſo ſome alms-houſes erected by the Mildmays.

The church is a ſtately building, dedicated to St. Mary, ſituated at the weſt end of the town; both church and chancel had north and ſouth aiſles: it had a lofty ſtone tower, with battlements and pyramids at each corner. On the top was a large lanthorn, with a ſhaft leaded. It had a clock and ſix bells. It was rebuilt in 1414, as appears by an inſcription. In the roof of the church were many eſcutcheons. The eaſt window of the church was painted with the hiſtory of Chriſt, from his conception to his aſcenſion; and the vacant places were filled with the arms and eſcutcheons of the nobility and other diſtinguiſhed benefactors. In 1641 all the pictures of Chriſt and the Virgin Mary were taken away, and their places filled with ſtained glaſs. There were in the times of popery, in this church, four guilds or chantries, and there were no leſs than 1800 obits, but the lands are now loſt. On the north ſide of the church, and not far from Biſhop's-hall, in a field leading to the town, ſtood a chapel dedicated to St. Margaret. It was appendant to the manor of Biſhop's-hall. In a chapel on the north ſide of the church is a library given by John Knightſbridge, D. D., a native of this town, for the uſe of the clergy in this neighbourhood. On the north ſide of the chancel is a chapel, which ſerves as a burial-place to the family of Mildmay. At the eaſt end of the church is a capital meſſuage, named Guy Harling, ſo called from an ancient Norman poſſeſſor: in the fifteenth century it was in a branch of the Wiſeman family, who rebuilt it. Lord Chief Baron Comyns rebuilt it as it now ſtands. The living, which is a rectory, is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's book at 31*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* In the year 1800 the old church fell to the ground, and a new one has been built in its place. The new building was opened in 1803.

SPRINGFIELD.

THIS pariſh reaches down to the town of Chelmsford, being parted from it by the river; it adjoins Boreham on the weſt. Its name denotes a field full of ſprings. At the time of the ſurvey, Ralph Peverell held the greater part of this pariſh, which Aleſtan poſſeſſed before him. Another part, which had been in the poſſeſſion of Godric, was held by Robert Gernon; and from theſe the three following manors

proceeded: Springfield-hall with Dukes, Springfield Barnes, Kewton, alias Cuton-hall. The manor of Newhall is alſo partly in this pariſh.

The manſion-houſe of Springfield-hall ſtands about a mile north-weſt from the church, on the eaſt ſide of the river towards Bromfield. The eſtate came very ſoon after the ſurvey into the poſſeſſion of a perſon named De Boſevill, who held it of the honour of Peverell. That honour was taken by Queen Maud from the heirs of Peverell, and given to William Mandeville, Earl of Eſſex. The manor was next in the family of Goldington, which name occurs in ſeveral parts of this county. It next came into the ancient family of Tyrells of Herons, in whom it continued till the preſent time. With Springfield-hall goes an eſtate, called Dukes, from a family of that name. The houſe ſtands almoſt oppoſite the church, at the ſouth-weſt corner of the green. It is in the Tyrell family.

The manor of Springfield Barnes has a manſion-houſe, which is placed near the river, in the road from Chelmsford to Little Baddow. This part originally belonged to Robert Gernon. In the reigns of Edward II. and III. it was in Thomas, William, and John Peſe. It afterwards came into the noble families of Bohun and Bourchier. In the reign of Henry IV. it was in Sir Lodowic John, who had alſo the moiety of the advowſon of the church of Springfield. In the firſt year of Edward IV. it was in Robert Chelmsford. In 1475 Margary, daughter and heireſs of Richard Lord Berners, died poſſeſſed of it: ſhe was the widow of Sir John Bourchier, who was in her right Lord Berners. It appears to have been in Coggeſhall-abbey afterwards; for on its coming to the crown in 1548, at the ſuppreſſion of monaſteries, Edward VI. granted it to William Mildmay. Robert Bertie, ſon to the Earl of Lindſay, purchaſed it of this family, and by will gave it to his nephew. Norris Bertie ſold it to John Porter, Eſq., alderman of London. After his death, his executors diſpoſed of it to William Mildmay, Eſq., of Moulſham-hall, whoſe grandfather had ſold it to Robert Bertie, Eſq.

The manor of Kewton, or Cuton, was reckoned part of Newhall in Boreham. The manſion-houſe ſtands on the ſouth ſide of the London road, towards Little Baddow. In 1372 it was held by Thomas Mark of the Earl of Hereford and Eſſex. It came afterwards into Coggeſhall-abbey, but at what time is not known. It fell to the crown at the diſſolution; and Henry VIII., in the twenty-ninth year of his reign, granted it, with the whole ſite of the abbey, to Sir Thomas Seymour, Knight; but upon an exchange, returning into the king's hands, he granted it in

1545

1545 to John Paſchall, who had farmed it before the diſſolution at 15*l.* per annum. Robert Witham afterwards purchaſed this manor; he was a vintner in London, and ſettled it upon his wife, daughter of John Torriano. She married upon his death without iſſue James Ruck, banker in London, and after his deceaſe John Curzon, Eſq. Some of the manors were diſmembered and parcelled out. In the reign of Edward I. a family of the name of Springfield held a moiety of the church, with other eſtates; they derived their name from this place. Peter de Mareſchall had alſo eſtates here, and Richard de Plaiz in 1360. In the time of Henry IV. John Benyngton and Chriſtian Peſte had lands here upon the new diſmemberment; Thomas Tyrell alſo, clerk, and Lewis John; John Hunt, and Richard Alfred, Eſq. John Earl of Oxford in 1514 held the fourth part of the manor of Springfield of William Pyrton, Eſq.

Springfield-place is a very good houſe at the eaſt end of the church, chiefly rebuilt by Robert Witham: it paſſed through ſeveral hands, and then came to John Strutt, Eſq. A good manſion-houſe on the ſouth ſide of the London road belonged to Mr. Shepherd. The abbot of Waltham held a tenement in Springfield. Lands, called a manor here, belonging to Thobie priory, were, among others, granted to Cardinal Wolſey by Henry VIII. It is now occupied by —— Brograve, Eſq. Springfield Lyons is the ſeat of Dowager Lady Waltham.

The poor of the pariſh are entitled to a rent-charge of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum iſſuing from lands; 40*s.* ariſing from cottages pulled down, and to be paid by the heirs and aſſigns of Ruke Church. To the pariſh alſo belong lands and a houſe of the yearly value of 10 or 12*l.* for the repair and ornaments of the church: a dwelling; alſo four acres of land; and a work-houſe, ſtanding in the road leading to Colcheſter. There is a farm, called the Poor's farms, belonging to the alms-houſes at Witham, upon Chepping hill.

The church ſtands on the north ſide of the green, and is of one pace with the chancel. There is a ſquare tower at the weſt end, embattled, having a wooden turret, containing five bells. This pariſh has from time immemorial conſiſted of two ſeveral rectories, diſtinct from each other, both belonging to the Tyrell family; one named Springfield Boſviles, the other Springfield Richards. There are two parſonage houſes, for the latter at the eaſt, the former at the weſt end of the church. Springfield Boſvile was rebuilt with brick by the late rector. The two rectories were conſolidated a ſhort time ſince by Thomas Biſhop of London, at the requeſt of Sir John

John Tyrell, the patron, and the two incumbents. Springfield Boſvile rectory is not diſcharged, and is valued at 11*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books. Springfield Richards is alſo not diſcharged, and is valued at 11*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.*

GREAT BADDOW.

THERE are two pariſhes of this name, diſtinguiſhed by Great and Little; the latter of which lies out of the diſtance which this work preſcribes; the former is called Great Baddow, derived from the word bad, and another Saxon word ſignifying water. In the time of the Saxons this pariſh was part of the poſſeſſions of Algar, the great Earl of Mercia. His ſon Edwin ſucceeded him in 1059. At the time of the Norman invaſion he refuſed to join King Harold, becauſe he had not received his ſhare of the ſpoil due to him from the fight at Stanford bridge. But after that king's fall, he ſolicited the citizens of London to make him or his brother Morkar king. As they did not comply with his requeſt, he ſubmitted to the Conqueror, who promiſed to give him his daughter in marriage. But as the king did not keep his word, Edwin roſe in rebellion, and was ſlain defending himſelf valiantly. King William then ſeizing his eſtates, gave this lordſhip among others to the monaſtery of the Holy Trinity in Caen, founded by his queen; and there it remained at the time of the ſurvey. It was ſoon after this again in the crown. It is very probable that Henry I. gave it to his natural ſon, Robert Earl of Glouceſter. Maud, wife of Robert Gernon, Earl of Cheſter, Robert's youngeſt daughter, having founded the priory of Repington, in Derbyſhire, in 1172, endowed it, among other things, with the advowſon of that church. It was next in the families of the Earls of Cheſter and Huntingdon. John Earl of Huntingdon, ſurnamed Le Scot, having married Helen, daughter of Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, after his death ſhe became the wife of Robert de Quincy, who in her right had the manor of Baddow, in the reign of Henry III. This is now called Baddow-hall. Helen had by Robert three daughters; one of them, Joan, married to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, brought this eſtate into this family; it does not, however, appear to have remained there long. In the fourth year of the reign of Edward III. Edmund de Wodeſtock, Earl of Kent, held the manor by the ſervice of one knight's fee; which ſervice Robert de Brus, late lord of the

manor, releaſed to Hugh Le Deſpencer the elder. Edward III. in 1332 granted this manor, with that of Writel, to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex. His nephew alſo poſſeſſed it in 1371, and his younger daughter and coheireſs Mary, becoming the firſt wife of Henry Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry IV., again brought this manor into the crown. Henry IV. incorporated it into his dutchy of Lancaſter, and left it to the kings of England as part of their royal demeſnes. In 1509 Henry VIII. ſettled it upon his Queen, Catharine of Arragon, as part of her dowry, and it was ſettled ſo by parliament. About the reign of Edward VI. it came by grant or purchaſe to the Paſcall family, who alſo bought the impropriate tithes and the advowſon of the vicarage, to which in 1546 John Paſcall preſented the excellent poet Alexander Barclay. It continued in that family till the middle of the laſt century, when Ralph Lord Viſcount Fermanagh ſold the manor to Jacob Houblon, of Great Hallingborough, in this county.

The manor of Sir Hughs and Shenges received its name from the owner, Sir Hugh de Badowe, in Edward III.d's reign, and was the ſeat of that ancient family. It ſeems to have been known by three different names, Marſhalls, Sir Hughs, and Badow; all from the names of thoſe families. There are now two farms, called Sir Hughs, Great and Little. They are both about a mile from the town towards Weſt Hanningfield. Great Sir Hughs is a large brick building, with a handſome piazza in front. Part of this eſtate was held in petit ſerjeantcy by the remarkable ſervice of keeping the king's palfrey forty days at the royal charge whenever he came into theſe parts; doing ſuit at the hundred court of Chelmsford every three weeks, and paying *6d.* to the ſheriff's aid. Robert Marſcall in 1211 was the moſt ancient owner on record. His grandſon died in the reign of Edward I., and left four daughters, coheireſſes, amongſt whom this eſtate was divided. They marrying, the eſtate became divided among their huſbands, Richard Badow, Richard Springfield, Geffrey le Painmer, and John de Monteney. Thomas, ſon and heir of Thomas de Naylinghurſt, of Braintree, coming by marriage into this eſtate, made it his place of reſidence: his ſon poſſeſſed the eſtates of Sir Hugh de Badow, and many others. About the year 1558 Robert Kinge, Gent., held the manor of Shenges, alias Sir Hughs. In 1664 the manor of Maſcalls, or Marſhalls, was in William Luckyn, and was afterwards in Mr. Darell, of London.

Sebright's-hall is a capital meſſuage in this pariſh, with valuable lands. It took the name from a good family, who were poſſeſſors of it, as part of the demeſne lands

lands of the manor of Great Badow. William Sebright, of Sebright-hall, lived in the reign of Henry II., and married Elizabeth, ſole daughter and heireſs of Sir Henry de Aſhe, Knight. John Sebright in 1490 ſold this eſtate to Robert Arthur, of Strepley, in this county. Edward Aylnoth, Eſq., in the reign of Henry VIII., marrying Alice Sebright, held it of the queen. After his death the eſtate, either by ſeizure or otherwiſe, came into the hands of John Paſchall, lord of the manor of Great Badow: he died in poſſeſſion of it in the 36th year of the reign of Henry VIII. It was next in the Gonſon family. Benjamin Gonſon died in poſſeſſion of it in 1577. The family ended in four ſiſters, coheireſſes: Anne, wife of Giles Fleming, was one of them. He died in 1627, holding this eſtate: her daughter and heireſs married John Everard, of Great Waltham; it then came to their ſon, and afterwards to Thomas Wilſhaw, Eſq., who gave it to his daughter Martha, wife of Arthur Wight, of Guildford, but was after that ſold.

Pontlands is an eſtate in this pariſh, where Walter Mildmay, a younger ſon of Thomas Mildmay, of Barnes, was ſeated in the reign of James I. It is a very pleaſant village, and is inhabited by perſons of the greateſt reſpectability.

The church of Great Badow is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and has a north and ſouth aiſle. It has a ſquare ſtone tower, in which are five bells, with a ſpire. The church contains an organ. Maud, daughter of Robert Earl of Glouceſter, and wife of Robert Gernon, gave the advowſon in 1172 to the priory of Repington in Derbyſhire, her own foundation; and Henry III. confirmed it to that priory in 1252. Upon that it became appropriated to the priory, and a vicarage was ordained and endowed, which continued in the patronage of that houſe till its ſuppreſſion, at leaſt till 1537, when John Young, prior of Repington, alienated the advowſon to Francis Bryan. The great tithes coming to the crown, Edward VI. gave this parſonage, then valued at 8*l.* 1*s.*, and the tithes at 16*l.* 1*s.* per annum, to Sir Walter Henley, Knight, who the ſame year, with Clement Smith, alienated the rectory and church, and advowſon of the vicarage, to John Paſcal, Eſq.; in which family it continued a conſiderable length of time. In 1554 John Paſcal ſold the parſonage-houſe to John Sammes and his wife for life, and diſpoſed of another part of it to John Brooke. About 1732 Lord Fermanagh ſold the advowſon to Mrs. Anne Percival, of Clatford, in Wiltſhire, who granted it to the Rev. Julius Herring: he conveyed it to other perſons. In this church were anciently two very conſiderable chantries: one was

founded by Margaret, wife of Thomas Coggeſhall, Eſq., and others. The yearly value, at the time of the ſuppreſſion, amounted to 20*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* Edward VI. granted it, with the manor of Springfield Barnes, to William Mildmay, Eſq. The other chantry, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was founded by Thomas Killy, formerly butler to Thomas de Woodſtock, Duke of Glouceſter; and afterwards to Henry V. and Queen Catharine. He died in 1449, and was buried in the church. At the time of the ſuppreſſion this chantry was valued at 14*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum. In the pariſh formerly ſtood a free chapel, dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt. In 1557 all the lands belonging to it were granted to John Drake and others. Lord Petre had it in 1613. There are alms-houſes for five poor dwellers, and a few charitable donations. The living is valued in the king's books at 18*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and is not diſcharged.

SANDON.

THIS word, in the Saxon language, ſignifies ſandy hill, which occaſioned undoubtedly the name of the pariſh. There is no account of it in Domeſday-book. After the ſurvey it was in the noble family of Scales, who came in with the Conqueror. William de Cleydon held under this family certain lands here; he held this manor alſo under the heirs of Aylmer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke. Aylmer was murdered in 1323. His next heir and heireſſes were, John de Haſtings, Elizabeth Comyns, and Joan Counteſs of Athol. John de Haſtings, dying in 1325, ſettled the eſtate on William de Beauchamp, his aunt's son. About the ſixteenth year of the reign of Richard II. Thomas Newenton held the manor of Sandon. In 1422 Thomas Coggeſhall had it of the king. The manor was afterwards in the crown, for Henry VIII. granted it to Cardinal Wolſey, on whoſe attainder it reverted to the crown. Thomas Tamworth held it of that king; and John Tamworth in 1564 alienated this and other lands to John Goodey of Braintree. In 1583 Robert Goodey ſold the manor to Antony Everard, Eſq., of Great Waltham. Anne, his granddaughter, brought this and other lordſhips in marriage to Sir William Maynard, Knight and Baronet, of Little Eaſton, in this county; created a baron in 1620. William, the ſecond lord, in 1652 conveyed the manor to Robert Abdy, Eſq.; created a baronet in 1660. Sir John Abdy in 1679 ſold it to Edmund Wiſeman, Eſq., of London: he in 1687 again conveyed it to Henry Collins, Eſq., of the Middle Temple. There were other lands held in this pariſh.

Sandon

Sandon church is dedicated to St. Andrew, and conſiſts of a body, chancel, and north aiſle. The ſteeple, which is of brick, contains five bells. The living is a rectory, and continued a great length of time in the families of Scales and Gate. Queen Mary I. granted the advowſon of it to Suſan Tonge, who preſented to it four times. The greateſt ornament of this pariſh, and a very great honour to the nation, was the learned Brian Walton, editor of the Polyglot Bible. He was inſtituted to this rectory in 1635. He was diſpoſſeſſed of this living in 1641, but repoſſeſſed it in 1660. He died in 1661. The living is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and is not diſcharged.

HANNINGFIELD.

THIS pariſh is generally called Hanville. The name is derived from the Saxon. There are three pariſhes of this name adjoining to each other, about ſix or ſeven miles ſouth-eaſt of Chelmsford, and diſtinguiſhed by the names of Eaſt, Weſt, and South. Before the Conqueſt theſe lands were held by Friebert and others. At the time of the ſurvey they were in Odo Biſhop of Bayeux, William of Warin, and Ralph Baynard. The lordſhips of theſe pariſhes were afterwards veſted in the Montchenſy family. The founder of this family, Hubert de Monte Caniſio, or Montchenſy, was in the Conqueror's reign lord of Edwardſton, in Suffolk. Dionyſia, wife of Hugh De Vere, ſecond ſon of Robert De Vere, Earl of Oxford, and daughter of William de Montchenſy, who died in 1255, became ſole heireſs of this eſtate; her couſin, Aylmer, or Audomar de Valence, was the next heir, who died in the reign of Edward II., ſeiſed of South Hanningfield, and the advowſons of the churches of Eaſt and Weſt Hanningfield. His three ſiſters became ſole heireſſes; and upon the partition of the eſtate theſe three manors were allotted to his ſecond ſiſter, Iſabel, wife of John de Haſtings, Baron of Bergavenny, who ſurvived him. John de Haſtings was her ſon and heir. The Haſtings were afterwards Earls of Pembroke. John Earl of Pembroke ſettled the manors on his aunt's ſon, William de Beauchamp, younger ſon of Thomas Earl of Warwick. He poſſeſſed the three Hanningfields, and died in 1411. Sir Edward Neville held the manors in right of his wife, Elizabeth Beauchamp. They remained in the Nevilles till Henry Neville, Lord Abergavenny,

venny, ſold them to Lord Petre, who died in 1635, and they have been ever ſince enjoyed by his poſterity.

EAST HANNINGFIELD.

THIS part was ſuppoſed to belong to one Norman in the time of the Confeſſor; and at the time of the ſurvey was held by Ralph Baynard, lord of Dunmor. Henry, grandſon of Ralph Baynard, having forfeited his eſtate by aiding the Earl of Maine and others againſt Henry I., that king gave it to Robert, a younger ſon of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, progenitor of the Earls of Clare and Baron Fitz-Walter. It continued in this family till Elizabeth, heireſs and daughter of Walter Fitz-Walter, brought it to the Radcliffe family. Lord Petre poſſeſſes the chief lordſhip in this pariſh. There are two other manors; that of Claidons, alias Haveningfield, and the manor of Canon Barnes.

The manor of Claidons, alias Havining, or Hanningfield, was ſo called from ancient poſſeſſors of that name. Sir William Hanningfield was a knight banneret in the reign of Edward I. William Claydon, who died in 1330, poſſeſſed a manor in Eaſt Hanningfield. Sir Thomas Hille, Knight, who died in 1485, held the manor of Claydon of Lord Fitz-Walter. In the 36th of Henry VIII. William Lathom, Gent., held this manor. Sir Edward Sulyard, who died 1610, alſo held it of the Earl of Suſſex. The eſtate is now the property of Lord Petre.

The manſion of the manor of Canon Barnes ſtands about a mile from the church towards South Hanningfield. The eſtate lies partly in this pariſh and partly in the next. Sir Walter Mildmay in 1589 died in poſſeſſion of this manor, then valued at 8*l.* a year. It is now in Philip Broke, Eſq., of Nacton, in Suffolk. Eaſt Hanningfield Lodge is another eſtate in this pariſh; the others are chiefly ſmall parcels. Here is a charity of 16*l.* per annum for old women; and a field of 4*l.* per annum given to the poor. Andrew de Woodeyre had licence in Edward I.'s reign to give forty acres of arable in Eaſt Hanningfield to the prior and convent of Bickenacre.

The church is a rectory appendant to the manor, and is valued at 13*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.* in the king's books, and is not diſcharged. At the north ſide of the church is a chapel or chantry built with brick.

WEST

WEST HANNINGFIELD.

THIS parish, at the time of the survey, was held by William Warren, Earl of Surry. There are the following manors here, besides the chief lordship: Clovileshall, Hanningfield Temple, and Hanningfield Parages, Peverells and Cherviles.

Cloviles-hall stands about a mile north-west of the church; it is written sometimes Coleville, and takes its name from a very ancient family. In the reign of Henry II. William de Cloville held three knights fees here of Walter de Meduana. It continued in that family till the seventeenth century. Mr. Richard Finch had it after them.

Hanningfield Temple, and Hanningfield Parages, Pages, or Paggets. It was called Temple, because some of the lands formerly belonged to the knights templars; the other name is derived from some family. Henry VIII. in 1541 granted these manors to John Cannon, citizen of London, who died possessed of them in 1547. His son dying without issue, gave his estates to his half-brother, Richard Humfrey, Esq. Edmund Humfrey, dying in 1727, left his estates here to Humphrey Sidney, Esq., of Margaretting. Hanningfield Temple next belonged to —— Drage, Esq. Daniel Williams, D. D. bought it of —— Drage, and it was then rented at 38*l.* per annum: He gave the Temple manor in 1712 to his wife for life, and after her decease to the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh for alms-houses.

The manor of Peverells was so named from a family surnamed Peverell. The mansion-house stands about a mile from the church. By a survey taken of this manor in 1611 it contains 308 acres and more. William Clovile had it in 1469. John Tanfield in 1625 had a moiety of it of Peter Whetcomb, and the other moiety of Lord Petre: he married Elizabeth Clovile. Daniel Tanfield sold it to Daniel Williams, D. D.

Cherviles manor-house stands about a quarter of a mile behind the church. It derived its name from an owner. About the year 1254 there was a trial between Ernald de Berkeld and Michael de Chervile and others about their common of pasture in West Hanningfield, belonging to the free tenement of the said Chervile. John Wawton, who died in 1489, held the manor of Lord Abergavenny. It came by marriage to John Cannon, when it was called the hamlet of Cherviles. It afterwards belonged to Mr. Humphrey, and then to Humphrey Sidney, Esq. A considerable

ſiderable manor here in Domeſday-book was anciently called Benedeſted, and gave name to Petronilla de Benedeſted, and Albric de Benſted. The name of Benſted Common ſtill remains; this appears to be that part of the manor which lies part in this pariſh and in that of Rettenden belonging to Ely.

Richard Cannon gave 5*l.* per annum to the poor of the pariſh in bread for ever, Mrs. Humphrey 40*s.* for ever to poor widows, to take no collection, to be paid out of Cherviles.

The church of Weſt Hanningfield conſiſts of a body and ſouth aiſle, as does the chancel. It is dedicated to St. Edward, and was a rectory appendant on the manor, of courſe was in the gift of the lord; but it has lately been alienated. At the weſt end is a tower, containing four bells, with a ſpire of wood. There is an old monument of the Cloviles, with a French inſcription, in the church. Here is an excellent parſonage-houſe, with a brick front faſhed; thus improved by Mr. Henry Burton, rector. The rectory is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

SOUTH HANNINGFIELD.

THERE is only one lordſhip in this pariſh, which paſſed through the families of Montchenſy, Valence, Haſtings, Beauchamp, Nevile; and then came to Lord Petre. The manor of Baron, alias Barne-hall, extends partly into this pariſh. South Hanningfield-hall, an eſtate of about 140*l.* per annum, belonged to Amery Pratt, Gent. Here are two eſtates named Preſtons: Great Preſtons belonged to Mr. Langley; and Little Preſtons, to Humphrey Sidney, Eſq. William Paſcall, ſecond ſon of John Paſcall, of Great Baddow, Eſq., had theſe eſtates formerly.

The church is a rectory of late appendant on the manor. At firſt it belonged to the priory and convent of Ledes, in Kent, a monaſtery of black canons of the order of St. Auguſtine, founded in 1119 by Robert de Crevecœur, and ſo continued inclusively till the year 1401. It afterwards came into the noble family of Beauchamp, Neville, and Petre; the latter of which has lately diſpoſed of it. The church is of one pace with the chancel. The tower has a ſpire on the top, and contains only one bell. The univerſity of Cambridge preſented in 1755 upon the death of Mr. Burton. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 10*l.*, and is not diſcharged.

RETTENDEN.

THIS pariſh derives its name from two Saxon words, ſignifying ſad, and riding; the lordſhip belonged originally to the nunnery of Ely, founded in 673 by Ethelreda; and when a biſhopric was eſtabliſhed at Ely in 1108, this eſtate became part of its endowment. Some parts of it have been held by the families of Bourchier and De la Hay under the Biſhop, which have given name to two reputed manors in this pariſh, though at preſent there are only two in the whole, that of Rettenden place, or hall, and Hide-hall. In the fifth of King John, the Biſhop of Ely encloſed the wood of Rettenden, and in the 32d of Henry III. had a park here. The capital manor of Rettenden continued in the Biſhops of Ely till it was alienated, either in the reign of Henry VIII. or Queen Elizabeth. In 1601 it was granted to Richard Barrell and others, to be held in free ſocage of the manor of Eaſt Greenwich. It was next in the Canne family. Richard dying without iſſue, gave it to his half-brother, Richard Humphrey, Eſq. Richard Brydges, who died in 1606, was his couſin and next heir, but did not poſſeſs. Edmund Humphrey, who died in 1727, gave all his eſtates in this pariſh to William Fitch, Eſq., of Danbury-place, paying 20*l.* yearly for ever for a ſchool to be erected here. The manor-houſe lies north-weſt of the church.

Bourchiers is alſo another manor. Robert Lord Bourchier, who died in 1349, held it of the Biſhop of Ely. It is uncertain whether it was not either that of Hide-hall, or Little-haies.

Hide-hall is about a mile and half from the church, towards Woodham Ferrars, and belongs to —— Weſtern, Eſq.

Little-haies, or Lattel-haies, is ſo called from the Hay or De la Hay family, which poſſeſſed it in the time of Henry II. Ralph De la Hay held it in Henry III.'s reign of the Biſhop of Ely. William, ſon of William de Montchenſy, was his next heir. Henry Bourchier, Earl of Eſſex, in 1483, held the manor of the Dean of St. Paul's. Henry, his grandſon and heir, ſucceeded, and being killed by a fall from his horſe in 1539, left his only daughter and heireſs, Anne, wife of Sir William Parre, afterwards Earl of Eſſex and Marquis of Northampton. She died poſſeſſed of this manor, held of the Biſhop of Ely. John Cely held it at the time of his death in 1588. It afterwards came to Sir Henry Savile, Knight, who made it part of his endowment of two profeſſorſhips in Oxford of geometry and aſtronomy. This manor

has a royalty belonging to it, and lies a little below Battle-bridge. The rent was lately 85*l.* per annum, but formerly 110*l.* The houſe is rather inferior. There is an eſtate in this pariſh called Merks, purchaſed in 1706 by the truſtees of Edmund Lee, Eſq., who gave 1000*l.* for putting out five boys of the pariſh of Egham, in Surry, as apprentices yearly to watermen. In caſe they ſhould neglect to do it, then the profit was to go to the poor of Staines. The eſtate, when firſt purchaſed, was let at 50*l.* per annum, but is ſince reduced to 40*l.* Here are ſome other ſmall donations.

The church conſiſts of a body and chancel, with a chapel or chantry on the north ſide; at the weſt end is a ſtone ſteeple embattled, having a low ſpire. In this ſteeple are five bells. It is dedicated to All Saints, and the patronage is in the Biſhops of Ely. The rectory is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 32*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

RUNWELL.

THIS pariſh received its name, in all probability, from ſome running well here. The chief manor anciently belonged to the cathedral church of St. Paul, being given to it by King Athelſtan, and conſiſted of twelve farms. It was ſeized at the Norman Conqueſt; for King William reſtored to God, St. Paul, and their ſervants, ſix habitations, to maintain as many families, or ſo many hides as had been taken away from the church. Two other manors were poſſeſſed here in the Saxons' time; and at the time of the general ſurvey by Euſtace, Earl of Boulogne, and under him by Lambert and Athelwolf. From theſe aroſe the three following manors: that of Runwell-hall, that of Sandon, and Flemings.

The manor of Runwell-hall has a manſion-houſe, ſituated about a mile from the church. This manor was in the dean and chapter of St. Paul, and continued in them till 1546, when Henry VIII. obtained poſſeſſion of it; and the ſame year made a grant of it to Sir Anthony Browne and his heirs. At the king's death, which happened before the deeds had been all executed, this grant was rendered ineffectual; for in the firſt of Edward VI. St. Paul's church remained poſſeſſed of it; when they exchanged it with the king for the manor of Mucking in this county, and the advowſon of the church, and three other parſonages for the advowſon of the vicarage. The exchange was made under the name of Romewell in Eſſex, and it was then

valued at about 37*l.* 10*s.* The parſonages they obtained in the place of it were Charing in Kent, High Eaſter in this county, and Therfield in Hertfordſhire. Lord Clinton, the next poſſeſſor, granted it in 1553 to Sir John Gate, upon whoſe attainder, which took place the ſame year, Queen Mary granted it to Suſan Tonge above mentioned, firſt lady of her bedchamber. She gave the reverſion to her brother's ſon after her death, George White, Eſq., and heirs. It continued in that family till 1679, when it was ſold to Mr. Simon Rogers, citizen of London, a native of Leiceſterſhire.

The manor of Sandon is undoubtedly incorporated with the others. A gentleman of the name of Sandon held an eſtate in Rawreth in Henry III.'s reign. It was moſt probably one of the two fees held by Simon de Merk in 1210. Henry VIII. is ſuppoſed to have granted this eſtate to Cardinal Wolſey.

The manor of Flemings was the ſeat of an ancient family, from which its name was derived. The manſion-houſe ſtands at a diſtance from the church, and, though formerly very large, is now taken down. In 1327 Robert Fleming enjoyed it. About the year 1470 John Fleming held it of the church of St. Paul. He died without iſſue, leaving three ſiſters. It next came by marriage into the Sulyard family. In 1692 Edward Sulyard dying unmarried, the eſtate came to his two nieces: Anne, married to Charles Parker; and Dorothy, married to William Marlow. Linfords is on the left of the road from Rettenden to Runwell, and almoſt a mile from the church. Newland fee is alſo a hamlet of this pariſh. There are two ſmall alms-houſes.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it conſiſts of a pace and ſouth aiſle. At the weſt end is a ſquare ſtone tower, containing four bells, and on the top is a ſpire ſhingled. The advowſon of the church has been long appendant on the manor of Flemings; but of late has been in the Pugh family. The living is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 13*l.*

MOUNTNEYSING, OR MUNNASSING.

THE Mounteneys were the ancient lords of the capital manor here, from whom this place derived the firſt ſyllable of the name; the termination ing is Saxon, and ſignifies paſture. It bore the name of Ginge Mounteneys as early as the reign of

Henry III. In the Saxons' time it was poſſeſſed by freemen; and at the time of the ſurvey, was held by Ranulf, brother of Ilger. The pariſh contains the manors of Mountneyſing, Bacons, Chevers, Cowbridge, and Arnolds.

The manſion-houſe of the manor of Mountneyſing ſtands at a very ſhort diſtance from the church. The family of Mounteney was of great antiquity in this pariſh, previous to the reign of Stephen. The manor continued in this family till Henry VIII.'s reign. About the beginning of Queen Elizabeth it was in the poſſeſſion of —— Hamon. William Wilford, marrying Agnes Hamon, held this manor in her right. After his death ſhe married Henry Wentworth. It was ſoon after purchaſed by Sir William Petre; and has ever ſince continued in that family.

The manor of Bacons was ſo called from a family of that name. In the latter end of Edward I.'s reign, Edmund Bacunne and his brother held it, and encloſed woods, and converted them into a park. That wood and their manor were held of John de Ginges by the ſervice of a fourth part of a knight's fee. In 1514 Sir William Capell held this manor of John de Mountney: he was anceſtor to the preſent Earl of Eſſex. Sir William Petre purchaſed it ſoon after, and died in poſſeſſion of it in 1571. It has continued ever ſince in his poſterity.

The manor of Chevers derived its name from a family of Capri, or De Capra, afterwards converted into Chevre, the French word for goat. In 1206 a fine paſſed between Nicolas Capri and Hamo Capri of this place. It was in this family in Henry VI.'s reign.

The manor of Cowbridge extends as far as the Red Lion inn at Billericay, and then proceeding as far as the watch-houſe, goes down the lane that leads to Brentwood. In the time of the Saxons it was in Aluuin; but at the ſurvey the owner was Ranulf, brother of Ilger. A family derived their ſurname from it; for Richard de Cobridge was mentioned in a deed of Roger de Ginges in the reign of Henry III. This manor became part of the poſſeſſions of the abbey of Stratford Langthorn, which obtained free warren for it in Ginges Mounteney. After the ſuppreſſion of monaſteries, it came into the poſſeſſion of Sir Richard Riche, who alienated it in 1545 to Sir William Petre for the ſum of 453*l.* 10*s.* It was then valued at 20*l.* per annum. Here are two farms of this name, Great and Little Cowbridge; but the former is only a manor. They both belong to Lord Petre.

The manor of Arnolds is ſuppoſed to have taken its name from Sir Arnulph de Mounteney, whoſe ſeat it is reported to have been. The manſion-houſe lies about

a mile out of the London road, on the left-hand going from Chelmsford. The building is large, and ſhews great antiquity. Till the reign of Henry VII. no mention is made of this eſtate. In 1493 Henry Elvedon, Eſq., died in poſſeſſion of the manor, which he held of William Capel. The next poſſeſſor after this family was John Brock, Eſq. In 1569 a writ was iſſued to him, and Lady Ann, his wife, daughter of the Earl of Oxford, late wife of the Earl of Sheffield, to deliver to John Tompſon, Eſq., the manor of Arnolds, with appurtenances, 4 meſſuages, 4 cottages, 4 tofts, 2 mills, 2 dove-houſes, 4 gardens, 4 orchards, 200 acres of arable, 120 acres of meadow, 400 of paſture, and 20 of wood, 100 of heath, 100 of marſh and manor land, and 40 ſhillings rent, with the free warren and fiſhery, in Gyng Mountneyſing. It was next in the family of Pert: John Pert died in 1583, and is buried in the chancel of this church. This family of Pert, or Peart, was originally of Yorkſhire; in whom it continued till they became extinct in 1735.

The diſſolved priory of Thobie, or Thoby, ſtands in this pariſh. It was founded in King Stephen's reign by Michael de Capra for the canons of St. Auguſtine, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Leonard. The founders granted one hide of land and panage for 40 hogs, and full paſture for cattle and tithes of their mill and hay, with ſufficient wood. From Tobias, their firſt prior, it undoubtedly took its name. The patronage was in the Mountney family. It was one of the ſmaller monaſteries granted to Cardinal Wolſey in 1525, and ſuppreſſed in order to be added to his two colleges; the temporalties were then valued at 56*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, the ſpiritualties at 18*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* a year. Its revenues conſiſted of the manors of Thobie, Ging Mountney, Blunteſwalls, and Cubford, with the rectory of this church, and advowſon of the vicarage; 60 meſſuages, 2000 acres of arable land, 1000 of paſture, 60 of meadow, 100 of wood, and 12*l.* 7*s.* 9½*d.* rent in this and other pariſhes. Upon the cardinal's forfeiture they again fell to the crown, and the manor, with the ſite of the priory, were granted in 1530 by Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Page, Knight; and the reverſion of the ſame in 1539 to William Berners and Dorothy his wife: he died in 1558. Griſilda, daughter and heireſs of William Berners, marrying Thomas Baker, Eſq., died in 1589 poſſeſſed of this eſtate. It appears to be afterwards in the Berners family again. It was next in the family of Preſcot, of Lancaſhire, in whom it continued.

The church is dedicated to St. Giles, or St. Leonard, and conſiſts of a body and two aiſles; the chancel has a ſouth aiſle or chantry; at the weſt end is a wooden frame,

frame, with a ſhingled ſhaft, and one bell. The church was appropriated to the priory of Thoby, of which the monks continued in poſſeſſion till the diſſolution; there was a vicarage alſo ordained, of which they remained patrons. It then came to the crown, when Henry VIII. granted it in 1545 to Sir William Petre, and the advowſon of the vicarage, in lieu of another manor, which Sir William gave up to the king. They have ever ſince continued in the Petre family. The living is diſcharged, and valued in the king's books at 27*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

INGATESTONE.

THIS is a market town, and lies about 23 miles from London on the high road to Chelmsford and Colcheſter. The market is on Wedneſday, and is chiefly for live cattle: there is a fair on the 20th of November. Part of the houſes on the weſt ſide, and a few on the eaſt, lie in the pariſh of Frierning; the reſt are in Ingateſtone. The Saxon word ing ſignifies paſture, the ending ſyllables at ſtone import, that here was formerly one of the Roman milliary ſtones, for they were accuſtomed to ſet up ſtones as we do to mark the miles on the road. It is not improbable that they began to reckon their miles here from London ſtone in Watling-ſtreet, as it was one of the great military ways in this iſland. Ingateſtone was variouſly written in old records Ging and Ing ad petram; and ſometimes Ging Abbeſs, becauſe it belonged to the abbeſs of St. Mary at Barking. In the pariſh are three manors; that of Ingateſtone; Hanley, alias Hauley; and that of Wood Barnes: they all belonged to Barking nunnery, founded by Erkenwald, Biſhop of London, in 675. The abbeſs and nuns continued in poſſeſſion of theſe manors till their diſſolution, when they came to the crown. Henry VIII. in 1539 granted this manor in conſideration of the ſum of 849*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to William Petre, L.L.D. and his heirs for ever; and in that family it now remains. William Petre, Eſq., it is probable, alienated them for a ſhort time in 1540.

The manor of Hanley, or Hauley, belonged to the nunnery at Barking. Henry VIII. in 1539 granted it to Elizabeth Hill, widow of Richard Hill, ſervant of the king; and from her it came to Sir William Petre, who died in 1571.

The manor of Wood Barnes, after the diſſolution in 1540, was granted by Henry VIII. to John Smith, Eſq., and heirs. Theſe eſtates have all centered in the Petre

Petre family. Sir William Petre becoming lord of the chief part of the parish, made Ingatestone-hall the seat of his residence, as have many of his successors. It is a large ancient edifice, standing in a bottom, well supplied with water, which is stocked with fish. In 1555 Sir William procured a bull from the pope to secure himself the better in his property, which had belonged to the monasteries. This bull confirmed to him and his heirs the manor and advowson, &c., under pretence that he was ready to assign and demise the rectories therein mentioned to spiritual uses.

The Hide is a very good house, and belonged to the family of Brand, who built it in 1721. Here are some charitable foundations. An alms-house for 10 dwellers, 7 women and 3 men, founded by Sir William Petre in 1557. The endowment is 48*l.* a year, paid out of Crondon park; an estate of 18*l.* a year out of Butsbury; 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* yearly out of a farm called Ramsey Tirrels; and 18*l.* a year out of a copyhold estate in Frierning, belonging to Wadham college, in lieu of 6 cows, 2 for the priest and 4 for the poor, which were to be fed on Ingatestone manor. The minister is priest to this hospital, and has 4*l.* per annum, 6*l.* in lieu of cows, 15*s.* for a gown, and 1*l.* 16*s.* for wood. Each of the poor has 6*s.* 8*d.* a month, 24*s.* every year for wood, and 12*s.* for a gown. Ten other poor, who have no dwelling, have 2*s.* 8*d.* a month of this charity. On Christmas Eve there is 6*s.* 8*d.* distributed to the poor of Ingatestone, and on Easter Eve 13*s.* 4*d.* to forty poor; 5*s.* at the auditing accounts by the ministers of Ingatestone, Mountnessing, and Butsbury, to be spent: 2*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* yearly to be deposited in the chest towards the repairs of the hospital, and of Lord Petre's chancel, built for the poor. The whole endowment is 90*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and stands on the east side of the street; a row of pillars in the middle divides it into two paces, which are continued through the chancel. At the west end is a high tower of brick, embattled, containing five bells. North of the chancel is a chapel of brick, rather large, erected for the purpose of being a burial-place to the Petre family. It is a rectory not discharged, and is valued in the king's books at 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

BUTSBURY,

BUTSBURY, ALIAS GINGES JOIBERD, AND GINGE LAUNDRY.

THIS pariſh is written in old records, Buttesbury and Butterbury, and Botolps Bury. In the time of the Saxons it was held by Bond; at the time of the ſurvey, by Henry de Ferrers, and is called in Domeſday-book Cinga. There are ſeven manors in this pariſh: Blunts, alias Joiberd Laundry; Friſtling, alias Thruſtling-hall; Impey-hall; the hamlet, manor, and park of Crondon; the manor of Whites; that of Ramſeys, or Ramſey Tirrels; and Buckwyns; but ſome of them extend to and almoſt comprehend the adjoining pariſh of Stock.

The manor of Blunts, or Ging Joiberd Laundry, took its name from an ancient family of Blunts; the derivation of the other two words is not known. Robert de Blund held it in the reign of Henry III.: he was attainted for joining with Simon de Montford, Earl of Leiceſter, and other barons, againſt the king; and his eſtates coming to the crown, were granted, with the advowſon of the church of Ginge Joiberds, to John de Weſton: they again appear in the Blunt family. Henry de Ferrars, who died in 1343, had the fourth part of a fee here, and the eighth part of another. Elizabeth Ferrars, wife of Sir Edward Gray, Knight, had this eſtate by deſcent. Her uncle, Thomas de Ferrars, held it of her. From the Ferrars it came by purchaſe, about the year 1590, to Paul Bayning, Eſq., whoſe ſon was created a viſcount. Anne Bayning marrying Albrey De Vere, Earl of Oxford, brought him this and other valuable eſtates; but having no iſſue, it came to her aunt, Elizabeth Bayning, who married Lord Dacre; the fourth part of the Bayning eſtate which ſhe inherited, ſhe left to her younger ſon, Henry Lennard, in which was included Blunts-hall, and that part which was in Stock. He left three daughters coheireſſes, who ſold this eſtate to Lady Comyns in 1746, widow of Sir John Comyns, Knight, and Chief Baron of the Exchequer. Viſcount Bayning compounded with the crown for diſforeſting the manor of Joiberd Laundri, or Blunts, in Butſbury and Stock, containing above 200 acres, and then rented at 111*l.* per annum. The manſion-houſe of Blunts ſtands on the right ſide of the road leading from Stock to Billericay.

The manor of Friſtling, or Thruſtling-hall, has a manſion-houſe, ſtanding about the middle of the way between Stock and Margaretting in the fields. At the time of the ſurvey it belonged to the nunnery of St. Mary's at Barking. It was after that

in

in the hands of Fitz-Richard and Brudenell. Nicolas Fitz-Richard had it in 1391 of the Duke of Glouceſter. Drugo Brudenell had it in 1489 of Sir Thomas Tyrrel. It now belongs to Lord Petre.

Impey-hall, or Impeyheye manſion-houſe, ſtands about a mile ſouth-eaſt of Butſbury church. The eſtate was part of the endowment of the nunnery at Ickleton, in Cambridgeſhire, founded about 1140 by Aubrey De Vere, Earl of Oxford. It continued in their poſſeſſion till the ſuppreſſion. Henry VIII. in 1538 granted the manor of Impey-hall to Thomas Goodrich, Biſhop of Ely, in exchange for the manor of Hatfield's Biſhop in that ſee. There is no account when it was taken from that biſhoprick, but in all probability it was in Queen Elizabeth's reign. It has belonged to Lord Petre for a conſiderable time.

The hamlet, manor, and park of Crondon. This eſtate may not improperly be placed under Butſbury, becauſe it appears to make a part of that pariſh, and lies between that, Stock, and Margaretting. In ſome reſpects it more properly belongs to Orſet, except as much of it as pays tithes to the rector of Stock. Some of the lands come up to the road which leads from Chelmsford to Billericay. It is not aſcertained who were the firſt poſſeſſors of this eſtate; but it became a parcel of the biſhoprick of London. It belonged to the crown in the reign of Henry VIII., who in 1545 granted the manor and park of Crondon for 160*l.* to Sir William Petre, Knight. It was then valued at 8*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* His heirs have enjoyed it ever ſince. The part which was formerly in park lands is now converted into farms. Out of this eſtate there are 48*l.* per annum paid to the hoſpital at Ingateſtone.

The manor of Whites and the manor of Ramſeys, or Ramſey Tyrells, belonged formerly to the ſame family, and therefore are joined together. The Tyrells had them. The manor of Whites is ſometimes called Whitley, or Whitches. The manſion-houſe is about half way between Stock and Butſbury, on the right-hand ſide of the road from Stock. Sir John Tyrell, Knight, who died in 1476, held the manor of Elizabeth, queen of Edward IV., by fealty. In this family it has continued. In right of theſe eſtates they have the diſpoſal of the rectory of Stock every third vacancy. Out of Ramſeys 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* is paid to the hoſpital at Ingateſtone.

The manor of Buckwyns, or Buckeſkin, was an eſtate that belonged formerly to the abbot of Stratford Langthorn. After the diſſolution of that monaſtery Henry VIII. in 1531 let it on leaſe of twenty-ſix years to Thomas Rigge at the yearly rent of 10*l.* 2*s.* In the 31ſt year of his reign he alienated it to Sir Richard Rich and his wife.

In 1540 Sir Richard ſold the manor to Walter Farre and others. Notwithſtanding this, according to ſome accounts, he is ſaid to have ſold it in 1551 to Thomas Marſhe; but it remained in the family of Farre. About the year 1739 it was in the Taverner family; they ſold it to Mr. Vernon of the Hide in Frierning, a merchant of London. Out of an eſtate in Catlyns in this pariſh, 18*l.* per annum is paid to Ingateſtone hoſpital.

The church of Butſbury is very ſmall, in length it is only, with the ſteeple included, 38 feet, and 21 wide on the outſide. It had formerly two ſmall aiſles, 10 feet high from the ground, which opened into the church by two handſome Gothic arches. The chancel is 28 feet long, and 21 wide on the outſide. A flint and ſtone tower is, at the weſt end, ſquare; on the top is a ſhingled ſpire: it contains three bells. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and was formerly appropriated to the nunnery of St. Leonard, Stratford, near Bow, now called St. Leonard, Bromley, in Middleſex. St. Leonard had a hermitage or cell near this place. Upon the diſſolution of religious houſes, this coming to the crown, was in 1538 granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Ralph Sadler, Knight, with the rectory of Butſbury, &c. Two years after, Sir Ralph alienated this rectory to Sir William Petre, Knight, by which means it came into that family. The church is a curacy or donative, ſerved by ſuch perſon as the owner of the rectory is pleaſed to appoint, licenſed by the biſhop. The certified value of it is 14*l.* per annum. Divine ſervice is here only performed once every month, or five weeks.

STOCK OR HERWARDSTOCK, HAVERDSTOCK OR HERTFORD-STOCK.

THIS pariſh derives the name of Stock from the Saxon word ſtock or log; the origin of the word Herward is difficult, if not impoſſible, to diſcover: here was a foreſt in all probability. It was anciently ſuppoſed to be a hamlet of Butſbury, not only becauſe it is encloſed on all ſides by that pariſh, except the eaſt, but particularly becauſe all the lands are held in it of three adjoining manors in Butſbury, but eſpecially that of Blunts. In the reign of Henry III. Geoffrey the monk was poſſeſſed of lands in Ginges Joiberds, with the advowſon of the church of Stock. The chief part of the lands became afterwards veſted in the noble family of the Ferrars of Groby.

Groby. From this family it paſſed to James Lord Berkeley, in whoſe heirs it continued till it was ſold in the reign of Elizabeth to Paul Bayning, Eſq., ſheriff of London, in 1593. Anne of this family before mentioned, marrying Albrey De Vere, Earl of Oxford, brought this eſtate to him as part of the manor of Blunts; it then went to her aunt for want of iſſue; after that it paſſed with that manor in a ſimilar way. A meſſuage and 60 acres of land in this pariſh, called Danyell, were held by Sir Thomas Tyrell, who died in 1476, of John Lord Bourchier of his manor of Blunts. Henry VIII. in 1525 granted the ſame to Cardinal Wolſey, on whoſe attainder they reverted to the crown. Henry granted them in 1544 to Sir William Petre and his heirs. There are at preſent but two houſes in the pariſh of any note. The chief part of this pariſh is pleaſantly ſituated on a ſmall hill. In ſome places the ſoil is gravelly; but towards the common, which is large, and nearly joins that of Gallow on the north, and Ramſden on the ſouth-weſt, the ſoil is a kind of loam, called brick and pot earth by the inhabitants, becauſe there is a kiln for each of theſe manufactures, lying however in Butſbury. The bricks here made are reputed the beſt in theſe parts. Here is a very inconſiderable charitable donation.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is rather large, having two aiſles; the old ſteeple was ſuppoſed to be demoliſhed by fire ſome years ago; the preſent ſteeple is of wood; it conſiſts of large thick wooden planks fixed in deep grooves behind the ſtuds. In the ſteeple are a clock and three bells. An altar, tomb, and inſcription, are in the church, inſcribed to Richard Twedye, Eſq.: he is praiſed for his munificence in it to the poor knights: this liberal gift is twelve pence a week to each poor man. The advowſon of the rectory is in the lords of Blunts manor, and of Ramſeys Tyrell. The former preſent twice together, and the latter has every third turn. Charles Hoole, M. A. was eminent as a ſcholar here, and rector of the pariſh in 1660, as was the Rev. Thomas Cox. The rectory is valued at 10*l.* in the king's books, and is not diſcharged.

MARGARETTING, OR MARGETING.

THIS pariſh is alſo called Ging Margaret to diſtinguiſh it from the adjoining ones. The church was dedicated to St. Margaret, and from thence the pariſh received the appellation. In the Saxon times the lands in this pariſh were in the poſſeſſion of Siward and others; but at the ſurvey they were in Robert Gernon and

others. There are three manors in the pariſh; that of Margeting, Copisfold-deale or Cold-hall, and Shenfield.

The manor of Margeting, in the twelfth year of the reign of Henry II., in 1166, was held by John de Sandford, under the name of Ginge. Alice, daughter and heireſs of Gilbert de Sandford, held this manor and eſtates; ſhe married Robert De Vere, Earl of Oxford; they were given to Joan De Vere, ſiſter to the earl's ſon, and wife of William de Warren, ſon of the Earl of Surry. Edward II., in the eighth year of his reign, confirmed to Edmund Earl of Arundel, in fee, the manor of Margaretting among others. He was beheaded in 1347 at the inſtigation of his brother Lord Mortimer; when Edward III. confirmed theſe manors in 1348 to John de Warren, Earl of Surry. He dying without legitimate iſſue in 1357, left his ſiſter Alice, widow of Edmund Earl of Arundel, next heireſs by blood: her ſon had his honours and eſtates reſtored to him which had been taken from his father Edmund, and was ſucceeded in them by his ſons Richard and Thomas, who died poſſeſſed of a moiety of this manor in 1415, the other moiety being then held by Elizabeth Dutcheſs of Norfolk, then wife of Sir Gerard Uſeflete, Knight, and by Joan de Beauchamp, Lady Bergavenny, and Margaret, wife of Sir Rowland Lenthall, his ſiſters and heireſſes. William Scott, Eſq., who died in 1491, held the manor of the king. John Berdfeld and his ſon held it ſoon after; the next heireſſes were his aunts, his father's ſiſters, Margaret, wife of Robert Gedge, and Thomaſine, wife of William Daniell. There is a doubt, however, whether this does not relate to Copfold-hall. Sir William Petre, who died in 1572, held the manor of the queen, and it has ever ſince continued in that noble family. By ſome accounts it appears as if this manor had belonged to the priory of St. Laurence, in Blackmore, in this county. The monaſtery had unqueſtionably a conſiderable eſtate here. In 1525 it was undoubtedly granted by Henry VIII. to Cardinal Wolſey, with the rectory and advowſon. Upon his fall they reverted to the crown, and were obtained by Sir William Petre, whoſe poſterity enjoy the chief part of this pariſh.

The manor of Copisfold-deale, or Cold-hall, has a manſion-houſe, which ſtands half a mile from the London road on the right to Ingateſtone. In 1250 and 1264 this manor was in the poſſeſſion of Ralph de Gings, and after that in James Lambourne, who held it of the Earl of Oxford. Joane Lambourne had it, and marrying William Chene, he enjoyed it in her right in 1371. It was next in the family of Cloville, and was held under them by Thomas Berdfield in Henry VI.'s reign.

John

John Berdfield died in poſſeſſion of it in 1514, leaving his father's ſiſters, Margaret, wife of Robert Gedge, and Thomaſine, wife of William Daniell, his next heireſſes. In the ſeventh year of Henry VIII.'s reign it was in Edward Cloville. In 1554 James Cloville died, leaving his ſiſters coheireſſes, Elizabeth, wife of William Tanfield, of Harpelo, in Northamptonſhire, and Mary, wife of Thomas Burges. The latter had an only daughter, who married Eugenius Gatton, of Stamford, who ſold his part of the eſtate to —— Hoy. Henry Biſhop, Eſq., bought this eſtate of Elizabeth and Martha Tanfield, in whoſe family it had been a long time. Mr. Biſhop ſold the eſtate again to Richard Benion, Eſq., late governor of Fort St. George in the Eaſt Indies: he conveyed it to his brother, who ſold it to Richard Holden, Eſq., who made many improvements and additions to the houſe.

The manor of Shenfield is ſo called from two Saxon words, which ſignify a pleaſant field. The houſe is in a bottom on the left-hand ſide of the road from Chelmsford to Ingateſtone. It is moated round, and has a draw-bridge. There is no court kept here, although it is a manor. The eſtate was originally in a family of Gedge, or Gage, and came by marriage into that of Harris of Prittlewell. It was purchaſed of Chriſtopher Harris in 1654, or his heirs, by Robert Wood, M. D. and L. L. D., a celebrated mathematician, and fellow of the Royal Society. His daughters ſold this manor in 1714 to William Alexander, a wine-merchant of London, who gave it by will to Edward Alexander, of Doctors' Commons. Tradition reports, that this is one of the houſes of pleaſure where Henry VIII. reſorted with his miſtreſſes. A good ſeat here belongs to the Sidneys.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and conſiſts of a body and ſouth aiſle; at the weſt end is a wooden belfry, containing four bells, with a ſpire ſhingled. The tithes of the pariſh were formerly appropriated to the priory of St. Laurence in Blackmore, and a vicarage ordained, of which that convent was patron. In 1525 Cardinal Wolſey obtained them of Henry VIII., with the reſt of the poſſeſſions of that priory, and ſettled them on his colleges of Oxford and Ipſwich. Upon the fall of the cardinal they reverting to the crown, were appropriated to the abbey of Waltham Holy-croſs in 1533. After the diſſolution Henry VIII. granted the rectory of this church in 1540 to Elizabeth Hill, widow, who the ſame year alienated it to Edward Bowland, Gent. He died in 1546 poſſeſſed of it, and the advowſon of the vicarage; his ſon ſold it in 1568 to William Lark, Eſq.: he died in 1582; and Juliana, wife of Simon Clerk, and William Sookerman, both in Milden-hall, in Suffolk,

Suffolk, were his next heirs. They ſoon after alienated without the queen's licence, for which they procured a pardon. But they appear to have ſeparated the great tithes, and the advowſon of the vicarage; the latter has been a long time, and ſtill continues, in Lord Petre's family; but the great tithes were in —— Crowford of this place, who in 1720 ſold them to John Hopkins, Eſq. The vicarage is diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 48*l.* 0*s.* 3½*d.* Sir Nathaniel Curzon preſented in 1744.

FRIERNING.

THE name of this pariſh denotes the friars or monks paſture, and was ſo called becauſe it belonged to the brethren of St. John of Jeruſalem's Hoſpital. In old records it is alſo called Gingees. In the Saxons' time it belonged to Selva and others; and at the ſurvey to Robert Gernon. His ſon and heir, William de Montfichet, ſucceeded Gilbert; his ſon granted in Henry II.'s reign half the manor to God, St. Mary, and St. John Baptiſt, and the poor of the holy houſe of St. John of Jeruſalem, and the brethren ſerving God, in free alms, except the outer wood of Weſtfrid, which he reſerved to himſelf and heirs. He alſo gave them the church, with lands. His ſon Richard appears to have given them the other part of the manor. The hoſpital alſo held one carucate of land in this pariſh under Philip Burnell, who died in the reign of Edward I. The premiſes continued in the knights of St. John of Jeruſalem till the ſuppreſſion, when they came to the crown. Henry VIII. then granted them to William Berners, Eſq.: he died in 1558 poſſeſſed of the manor and advowſon of the church. Griſild Berners coming to the property, married Thomas Baker, Eſq., ſecond ſon of Sir Richard Baker, of Kent. It next came to a perſon of the name of Whetcome. Dorothea Wadham having purchaſed it, made it part of the endowment of Wadham college at Oxford, where it ſtill continues. They have alſo the advowſon of the church. Dorothea was the ſecond daughter of Sir William Petre; ſhe married Nicolas Wadham, of Merryfield, in Somerſetſhire, who with her built that college. Charles Hornby, Eſq., built a good houſe in the pariſh. The church is of one pace with the chancel. At the weſt end is a brick tower, in which are five bells. Robert Doiley, late rector here, left 1000*l.* to the corporation in London for the relief of clergymen's widows, &c.

BLACKMORE.

BLACKMORE.

THIS pariſh has its name from the nature of the ſoil. It is not to be found in Domeſday-book. About the reign of Stephen and Henry II. all, or the greater part of the pariſh, was held by a family ſurnamed De Sandford, which had a ſmall barony. This pariſh contains four reputed manors; the manor of Blackmore-hall, the ſite and manor of Blackmore priory, the manor of Copſechys, and that of Fingreth.

The manor of Blackmore lies about half a mile from the church, and is now called Smith's-hall; it was originally in the Sandford family. Adam and Jordan De Sandford gave it to the priory, about the reign of Henry II. The priory was founded before, in the beginning of King John's reign. It was eſtabliſhed for regular canons of the order of St. Auguſtine, and dedicated to St. Laurence, whence it was generally called the monaſtery or priory of St. Laurence de Blackmore. It continued till the year 1527, when Henry VIII. diſſolved, and granted it, among others, to Cardinal Wolſey for the endowment of his college at Oxford. The revenues of the houſe amounted at that time to 85*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* per annum. Upon the cardinal's attainder in 1529 it came to the crown; and two years after was granted by Henry VIII. to the abbey of Waltham Holy-croſs, in exchange for the manor of Stanſted Abbots, and other lands, which they yielded to the king. In the grant they were allowed to hold a fair at Blackmore on St. Laurence's day, the day before and the day after. Upon the general diſſolution of monaſteries, this eſtate coming to the crown, Henry VIII. granted it in 1540 to John Smyth and his heirs, and it has ever ſince continued in his poſterity. The family is derived from Sir Michael Carrington, ſtandard-bearer to Richard I. in the holy war. One of the deſcendants in the fifteenth century changed his name to Smyth; Thomas Smyth, dying in 1724, left this and other eſtates by will to his niece, Mary Tendring; ſhe dying unmarried in 1732, bequeathed them to her couſin, Thomas Alexander, upon condition that he ſhould take the name of Smyth; he died in 1747, and left the eſtates to his nephew Charles; Thomas had previouſly left the impropriate rectory of this pariſh to his nephew, John Gibſon, for life, who was vicar of Bromfield, and ſon of his ſiſter; he dying without iſſue, the rectory deſcended to Charles Alexander, Eſq. The priory ſtood near the church; Mr. Smyth ſold the ſite of it in

1714

1714 to Jacob Ackworth, a ſhipbuilder, who was afterwards knighted by George I.; he repaired it, and made ſome additions to the old buildings: as the workmen were repairing it, they found a leaden coffin, about a yard long, full of human bones, and other bones ſcattered about. It came after that to his heir, Jacob Wheat. This is reported to have been one of Henry VIII.'s pleaſure-houſes, and diſguiſed by the name of Jericho. Thus when this laſcivious prince had a mind to be loſt in the embraces of his courtezans, the cant word among the courtiers was, that he was gone to Jericho. Here his natural ſon was born by Elizabeth Talbois, daughter of Sir John Blunt, and widow of Sir Gilbert Talbois. His name was Henry Fitz-Roy; and his father in 1525 created him Duke of Richmond and Somerſet and Earl of Nottingham. He died in 1536.

The manor of Copſechys is very little known from ancient records. In 1484 Thomas Stalbroke held it of the Earl of Oxford. It is now incorporated into Smyth's-hall.

The manor of Fingreth was held of the king in capite by grand ſerjeantcy, that is, by the tenants having the honour of being chamberlain to the Queen of England, and having for the fee the furniture of the chamber, &c. It was in that manner held by Gilbert de Sandford, chamberlain to Eleanor Queen of Henry III.: his only daughter and heireſs was married to Robert, ſon and heir of Hugh De Vere, Earl of Oxford. John Earl of Oxford being attainted for his adherence to the houſe of Lancaſter, was beheaded in 1461, and his eſtates confiſcated: but Henry VII. reſtored them to his ſon. The eſtate being ſquandered away by Edward, he ſold them to Richard Branthwaite, Gent.; but he alienated it again ſoon after to Sir William Mildmay, chancellor of the exchequer. Sir John Mildmay inheriting theſe eſtates, married Mary, daughter of James Bancroft, Eſq., of Derbyſhire; but dying without iſſue, left to her and her heirs this eſtate and manor. She again married Robert Cory, D.D. rector of Danbury and Margaret Roding, and archdeacon of Middleſex. He died in 1704, and left an only daughter, Mary, who became the wife of William Fytch, Eſq., and brought this eſtate into that family. At Queen Anne's coronation Dr. Cory and Mary his wife claimed the office of chamberlain to the queen; it was alſo claimed by the lord of this manor at the coronation of Queen Caroline, but diſallowed, becauſe not made out.

There is another manor, or part of one, here, named Wither Spains, which is ſuppoſed to be what the priory here held in Willingale Spain, or near it. It was in

Mr. William Baker. Half an acre here is given for the purpoſe of buying bell-ropes. George Callice of this pariſh, by will in 1580, gave lands here to four inhabitants, to diſtribute the rents of the ſame to ſix poor inhabitants of this pariſh: he alſo gave 20*l.*, the intereſt to be applied to the miniſter for preaching two ſermons; the reſidue, with one ſhilling to the ſexton, to the nine pooreſt inhabitants: here are other donations of a ſimilar kind.

The church which now ſtands, is ſuppoſed to be part of the old priory church: it was appropriated to this monaſtery, and has ever ſince the ſuppreſſion continued a donative or curacy in the gift of the impropriator. In 1720 Thomas Smyth, Eſq., augmented it with tithes worth 400*l.*, upon receiving 200*l.* from the governors of Queen Anne's bounty. The ſtipend is 20*l.* per annum. The vicarage is valued in the king's book at 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum, and is not diſcharged.

WIDFORD.

THIS pariſh adjoins on the ſouth-ſouth-weſt to Chelmsford, and was ſo called from the width of the ford there before there was a bridge built over the river. There is but one manor in the pariſh, called Widford. In the earlieſt times it was held by the Clovills of Hanningfield. William de Clovill had it in the reign of King John. His ſon held it in the 49th of Henry III., when he had leave to clear it of wood, and turn it into arable. It was next in Edmund of Woodſtock, Earl of Kent, ſixth ſon of Edward I., who was beheaded in 1329 for contriving the deliverance of the captive King Edward II. Edmund Bacon held the manor and advowſon under that earl: he likewiſe held it under Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March, to whom the lordſhip was given upon Edward's forfeiture. In 1360 Robert de Ufford held it under the Earl of March; he was Earl of Suffolk. Margaret, wife of John Bacon, was poſſeſſed of two parts of the manor of Widford. The manor returned ſome time after into the Clovill family; for John Clovill, who died in the 5th of Henry VII., held it of the Dutcheſs of York. It was, after this family, in Charles Altham, ſerjeant at law, who built the chapel adjoining, north to the church, in 1604. Sutton Altham, Eſq., dying in 1630, the eſtate deſcended to his two ſiſters and coheireſſes, Elizabeth and Frances. One of them married to Charles

Tryon, ſon of Peter, grandſon of Moyſes, of Haringworth, in Northamptonſhire. His ſon Charles ſold the eſtate to Thomas Inwin, Eſq., of Southwark, M. P. for that borough. He left his eſtate by will in 1743 to his widow, upon whoſe death in 1746 the eſtate, manor, and advowſon, came to Sarah, Counteſs Dowager of Suffolk, their ſole daughter and heireſs. She remarried Viſcount Falkland in 1752. There are about 800 acres of land in this pariſh. The late Chief Baron Comyns built a ſeat in this pariſh, named Highlands, which he left for life to his lady, and after her death to his nephew, John Comyns, Eſq.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and ſtands on the weſt ſide of the London road: it is a ſmall but ancient building, conſiſting of a nave and chancel of one pace; on the north ſide of the church is a chapel belonging to the lords of the manor. At the weſt end is a wooden turret. The Clovill family preſented to this rectory from 1410 to 1597. It is diſcharged, and valued in the king's books at 42*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* per annum.

WRITTLE.

THIS pariſh is juſtly eſteemed the fineſt and largeſt in the county: it is about 26 miles from London, to the weſt of Chelmsford. Here is ſuppoſed to be the ancient Roman ſtation, named Cæſaromagus, in Antoninus's Itinerary. Before a bridge was built over the river at Chelmsford, the public road from Braintree, and ſeveral other parts in the north and north-eaſt of the county, led through Writtle, turning at a corner where the ſign of the Red Cow now is, and going on to Beyford Tye, and quite through to Margaretting. Near the farm called Shakeſtons ſtood a very large inn, called the Swan.

This noble lordſhip belonged anciently to the crown; and in the Confeſſor's time was part of the poſſeſſions of Earl Harold, who ſucceeded him on the throne. At his death it came to William the Conqueror, who at the time of the ſurvey held the greater part of this pariſh in demeſne as the king's fee. The Biſhop of Hereford held another part, and Euſtace Earl of Boulogne held Newland-hall in Roxwell. The manor of Writtle was part of the Corpus Comitatûs of Eſſex. Richard I. granted ſome franchiſes out of it to John Fitz-William and Walter de Hadfield, which lowered it conſiderably in value. But what thoſe franchiſes were is not known,

known. King John in 1211 built a houſe or palace here; the remains of which are ſuppoſed to be a quarter of a mile from the green, on the road leading to Chelmſford on the left. There are the ruins of an old ſeat, ſurrounded with a moat, and which contain about an acre of ground. Oppoſite to this is a farm, called the Lordſhip; and here the court-baron is held; but the court-leet is kept at Greenbury on Little Green upon Whit-Monday, on which is a place encloſed like a ſummer-houſe. The market-houſe ſtood near it, but is now pulled down. King John in the ſixth year of his reign granted this manor, or part of it, in fee farm, and afterwards for life to Thomas de Nevill, with free warren. In the grant Thomas de Nevill is ſtyled clerk, and the manor of Writtle is ſaid to be ſome of the lands which were given to the Normans. Henry III. in the firſt year of his reign granted the town or manor of Writtle to Philip de Albene; and in the year following to William Longeſpée, Earl of Saliſbury; and in the 14th of his reign he granted it to the Biſhop of Chicheſter, Lord Chancellor of England, with a wood called Horfrith. This biſhop was Ralph de Nevill, who built a town-houſe in Holborn to be a reſidence for the biſhops of that ſee when they were in London, which, from a ſubſequent owner, Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, took the name of Lincoln's Inn. The ſame king, about a year after, gave the manor of Writtle to Iſabella de Bruys, ſiſter of John Earl of Cheſter. Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick, aſſerting his right to the crown of Scotland, and being crowned at Scone in 1306, he was deprived of all his eſtates in England by King Edward I. This manor then remained in the king's hands till Edward II. gave it to Humphrey de Bohun, High Conſtable of England, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, and his heirs; in 1347 the houſe was fortified and embattled; in 1372 Humphrey, his deſcendant, died, leaving iſſue two daughters, Eleanor, married to Thomas of Woodſtock, ſixth ſon of Edward III., and Mary, to Henry Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry IV. of England. Thomas of Woodſtock, Duke of Glouceſter, had this manor in right of his wife, with other large eſtates. In 1397 he fell a ſacrifice to his enemies and the weakneſs of Richard II. By his wife he had one ſon, Humphrey, who died young, and four daughters, Anne, Joan, Iſabel, and Philippa; Anne was contracted whilſt very young to Thomas Earl of Stafford, who dying in 1392, without having cohabited with her on account of her youth, ſhe married his next brother, Edmund Earl of Stafford; he was killed in the battle of Shrewſbury in 1403, leaving Humphrey his ſon, then only two years of age; who was afterwards created Duke of Buckingham, and died in poſſeſſion of the manor and eſtates of

Writtle, being killed at the battle of Northampton fighting for Henry VI. His grandſon was the next heir, born in 1456; he was the chief inſtrument in placing the crown on the head of Richard III., but afterwards declaring againſt the uſurper, loſt his head, and forfeited his eſtates. Edward, his eldeſt ſon, obtained from Henry VII., in the 14th year of his reign, all his father's lands. But, equally unfortunate as his predeceſſors, he fell a ſacrifice to the violence and ambition of Cardinal Wolſey, through whoſe intrigues he was beheaded on Tower-hill in 1521, when this manor and eſtates fell to the crown. In the crown it remained till the year 1553, when Queen Mary granted the manors of Writtle and Boytop, with two parks, that of Writtle and Horſrith, to Sir William Petre: John Petre was advanced to the dignity of a baron in 1603 by the title of Baron Petre of Writtle. There were formerly here two parks; one called the King's or Writtle park, lying towards Ingateſtone; the other on the road from Cookſmill-green to High Ongar, which has been diſparked a long time: it is called Oſtley or Oſterly park, but the ancient name was Horsfrith. Henry III. granted it to Ralph de Nevill, Biſhop of Chicheſter, and it contained about 300 acres of land. The king had a wood or foreſt in this pariſh, which had a keeper. Within this manor is a remarkable cuſtom called Leppe and Laſſe; it is this: Every cart paſſing over a certain part of it named Greenbury, unleſs it be the cart of a nobleman, is to pay fourpence to the lord of the manor. It is ſuppoſed to have been anciently a market-place. Nine manors have been parcelled out from the noble manor of Writtle; that of Rolſtons, Shakeſtons, Fidlers, Turges, Haſets, Morehall alias Stanfords, Bowers, Bedell's Hall, and Benedict Otes.

The manor of Rolſtons derives its name from a family ſo called. The manor-houſe is very pleaſantly ſituated on the right-hand ſide of the road leading from Writtle church to Blackmore, about half a mile from the church. Walter Thomas in 1583 held the eſtate of the queen as of her manor of Writtle, being then valued at 8*l.* per annum. It was afterwards in the Aſtley family. Sir Andrew Aſtley in 1633 died poſſeſſed of the eſtate. It was purchaſed of Antony Aſtley in 1653 by William Wiſeman, whoſe heirs in 1685 ſold it to John Adams, Eſq., in whoſe family it continued.

The manor of Shakeſtons has a manſion-houſe, lying on the ſide of the road leading from Writtle church to Margaretting. William Bedell, who died in 1536, held this of Henry VIII. Sir Andrew Aſtley held it alſo of the Earl of Portland and

Peter

Peter Whetcomb, of their manor of Writtle, which they had in truſt for Lord Petre. Sir Andrew lived at this houſe. From the Aſtley family it came to that of Browne, Rogers, and Plummer; the latter of whom ſold it to Sir John Comyns, Knight, late lord chief baron of the exchequer.

The manor of Fidlers has a manſion-houſe ſtanding about three miles from the church, a ſhort way out of the road leading from Writtle church to Blackmore. There is a row of trees from the road to the houſe. The name of this place is derived from Fithelers, or Vithelers, a family here of very great antiquity. Nicolas de Fitheler lived here in the reign of Henry III. In 1356 Nicholas de la More releaſed to Sir Hugh Badowin, Knight, and his wife, all his right to the manor of Writtle. It came next into the Joſcelyn family. Sir Ralph Joſlyn was Mayor of London in 1465 and 1476. It afterwards came into the Petre family, in which it has continued ever ſince.

The manor of Turges is a capital meſſuage, otherwiſe called Caſſus, and ſtands north-weſt about a mile from the church: it is now called Sturgeons, and has been a ſeat of conſiderable antiquity. Ralph Neville, Biſhop of Chicheſter and Chancellor of England, lived here. This manor was held by John Berners, Eſq., of the ancient family which poſſeſſed the manor of Berners Roding in this county not long after the Conqueſt, under Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, as belonging to his manor of Writtle. He was gentleman-uſher to the Princeſs Elizabeth, eldeſt daughter of Edward IV., and afterwards ſewer to Edward V., as appears from the epitaph on his monument in the church where he was buried. John, his deſcendant, ſold this eſtate to the Pinchon family. Nicholas Pinchon, of Wales, was one of the Sheriffs of London in 1532. The eſtate continued in this family till after the year 1672, when it came to William Wolfe, of St. Andrew's, Holborn.

The manor of Haſets, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, was held by John Pinchon, Eſq., of the manor of Writtle and Turges, and continued in his poſterity till very lately. It came afterwards to William Wolfe, Eſq.

The manor of Morehall, alias Stanfords, has a manſion-houſe ſtanding in the road to Highwood, about a mile north-weſt of the church. In all probability it takes the name from its ſituation in a moor, or wet place. In 1359, in the 33d year of the reign of Edward III., Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Scott, Knight, late wife of John, ſon of Sir William Delamore, let to Ralph Wooley, or Wolſey, the manor of Morehall during life, for forty marks a year; and her brother-in-law, Nicholas,

releaſed

releaſed to Ralph and his heirs all his right in it. In 1367 this Nicholas granted the reverſion and releaſed all his right in the manor to John Aubrey. In the ſixth of Henry IV. he releaſed to William Creſwyth, John Darham, and others, all his rights, &c. In 1418 John Hende of Bradwell, near Coggeſhall, held the manor in right of Elizabeth, his wife. In 1465 Sir Thomas Charleton held the manor; he was attainted for aſſiſting King Richard III., and his eſtates taken from him in 1485. Soon after, Henry VII. granted the manor to Sir John Forteſcue, Knight, and his heirs. But in 1510 John Baſſet, Eſq., deſcended from John Hende above mentioned, had ſpecial living of this manor from King Henry VIII. John Forteſcue, however, in 1518, died poſſeſſed of it. Edmund in 1588 alienated it to William Carew, Eſq. But two years afterwards Queen Elizabeth granted it to William Carew and John Forteſcue. Thomas Carew had it, and ſold it in 1592 to Chriſtopher Sybthorp, Eſq., and his heirs. Nicholas Wadham had it next, or his wife Dorothy, by purchaſe, and ſettled it on Wadham College, Oxford, in which it now remains.

The manor of Bowers, Burrowes, or Barrowes, lies on the ſide of Edney common, in that part of the pariſh named Highwood; and is held of the manor of Writtle, by the rent of 20*s.* per annum. In the reign of Charles I. it belonged to the Luckyn family. Richard Luckyn, Eſq., was high ſheriff for the county in 1636: by the marriage of Anne, his grand-daughter, with Sir Joſeph Brand, it came into that family, as Joſeph Brand, Eſq., died without iſſue. Joſeph Brand, ſon of Sir Joſeph, ſold it to Job Marple, clerk, vicar of Boreham in this county: he gave it to Thomas Cook, rector of Semer, in Suffolk, who had married his youngeſt daughter.

The manor of Bedell's-hall is one of the four hamlets belonging to Writtle pariſh. The manſion-houſe is ſeated on the right ſide of the road leading from Pleſhey to Chicknal Smaley, not far from Dyveſhall, and is about four miles or rather more from Writtle church: near it, at the meeting of three ways, formerly ſtood a croſs, called Bedell's Croſs. This manor is part of what was held at the time of the ſurvey by Robert Gernon, lord of Stanſted Montfichet. From his deſcendants it paſſed to the noble family of the De Veres, Earls of Oxford, as did Stanſted; and by that means came to be held of them. William Le Bedell is mentioned in the inquiſition of Henry III. Richard Bedell held this eſtate under John De Vere, Earl of Oxford, who died in 1360. The Earl of Oxford granted his wardſhip to John Brocket for 30*l.* He died in 1535; beſides this, he held a meſſuage called the Lodge, a meſſuage

and lands called Shakeſtons, and a meſſuage called Howchers in Writtle, of the king of his manor of Writtle. In the reign of Elizabeth, William Bedell, Gent., held this eſtate. Of this family, born at Black Notley, was the famous and learned William Bedell, D. D., Biſhop of Kilmore, in Ireland. Bedell's-hall was next in the poſſeſſion of Chriſtopher Glaſcock, clerk, maſter of Felſtead ſchool in this county for about forty years. The eſtate and manor was purchaſed of his ſon by Job Marple, clerk, vicar of Boreham, who gave it to his daughter Jane, wife of Thomas Wallace, M. D.: his grandſon, Job Wallace, rector of Liſton, and vicar of Meſſing in this county, had it next.

The manor of Benedict Otes took its name from Benedictus Otes, who held it formerly. The manſion-houſe ſtands on the right ſide of the road from Roxwell to Chelmsford, near Cookſmill-green, about three miles north-weſt from Writtle church. It anciently belonged to Mountney's chantry, founded in the church of Chelmsford by Sir John Mountney. Edward VI. granted this manor, after the diſſolution of the chantries, to Sir John Perient and Thomas Reeve, with the appurtenances, in Writtle, belonging to Mountney's chantry in Chelmsford: but Sir John Cary, who died three years after, in 1552, was found to be poſſeſſed of the manor. From this family it paſſed to John Agmondeſham, who died in 1598. Mary, wife of William Muſcamp, of Godalming, in Surry, was his ſiſter and heireſs. It afterwards came to William Petre, Eſq., of Mile-end, in Middleſex, a branch of Lord Petre's family, in which it now remains. There is a farm in this pariſh, called Beaumont Otes, in the road from Chicknal Smaley to Chelmsford, belonging to Lord Petre.

Thomas Hawkins gave a farm here, conſiſting of a meſſuage called Hooks, and 60 acres of land, to the poor who ſhould inhabit the alms-houſes in Writtle church-yard; he alſo gave 30 acres of land, being a farm called Bumſteds, and ſome ſmall tenements in Writtle, for the repair of the church. William Horne, grocer, of London, gave 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum out of his eſtate in the Wreſtler in Biſhopſgate-ſtreet, London, to the poor of the pariſh: here are ſome other ſmaller donations.

The abbey lands of Beddeman's Berge. This was a hermitage, ſituated in the middle of a wood called Highwood Quarter, about four miles north-eaſt of Writtle church. Part of the chapel is ſtill ſtanding. One Robert, a monk, in the time of King Stephen, was the founder of this hermitage. Some time after, Robert reſigned all his right and intereſt in it to the abbot and monks of St. John's in Colcheſter, which Stephen confirmed. Henry II. ordained two monks prieſts to reſide there conſtantly,

conſtantly, and appointed 4*d.* a day for their maintenance, and that they ſhould have all manner of liberty, and firing in his foreſt, and paſture; and that they might have their men to gather nuts during the nut ſeaſon. Beſides theſe two prieſts, the abbey put in a guardian, or keeper. After the diſſolution, the hermitage, then corruptly called Barrowes and Salmons, in Writtle, and deſcribed as comprehending a dove-houſe, orchards, gardens, and lands containing 50 acres, was granted in 1542 by Henry VIII. to Robert Tyrwhitt, Eſq., and his heirs, who the ſame year ſold it to Robert Lenthall. In 1544 Philip Lenthall alienated it to Sir William Petre, Knight. In his poſterity it now continues.

The church of Writtle, dedicated to All Saints, is very large and ſtately. Both church and chancel have aiſles belonging to them. At the weſt end is a lofty tower of ſtone, with battlements. It contains eight bells. The church is ſaid to have been given by King Stephen in 1143 to the priory of Bermondſey, in Surry: but in 1203 King John gave it to the hoſpital of the church of St. Maria in Saxia, or the hoſpital of the Holy Ghoſt at Rome, belonging to the Engliſh, for the maintenance of the poor and infirm there; and Edward III. confirmed it to them. In purſuance of this grant a houſe was erected here, called the Houſe of the Holy Ghoſt, governed by a prior, or warden, who held this church in free alms. At length this houſe was ſeized by the crown, as belonging to an alien hoſpital. William of Wyckham, Biſhop of Wincheſter, having about that period, in 1399, founded New College, Oxford, he obtained this church, which the warden had leave from Richard II. to make over to that college. From that time the warden and fellows of the college have been, and ſtill are, proprietors of the rectory, patrons of the vicarage or donative, and ordinaries; for it is a peculiar juriſdiction belonging to New College, in Oxford; and in all ſpiritual matters, is ſubject to ſuch commiſſary as is conſtituted by the warden and fellows of that ſociety; ſo that it is exempt from the viſitation of a biſhop. The rectory of this pariſh is a manor, and the court is kept at the parſonage-houſe, which is pleaſantly ſituated on the ſouth ſide of the church-yard: it is called the manor of Romans fee, or Rectoria de Writtle, alias Romans, on account of the rectory belonging to the hoſpital at Rome: there are ſtill the remains of a water-mill, called Romans mill. This fee was probably what the Biſhop of Hereford held in this pariſh at the time of the ſurvey belonging to the church. Romans fee is one of the four hamlets or diſtricts belonging to this pariſh; the other three are, Town-quarter, Highwood, and Bedell's-end. Formerly there were four chantries

chantries in this church; one of the yearly value of 6*l.*, Sewel Bromfields, or our Lady's chantry, to which a chapel in the church-yard belonged, dedicated to the Virgin Mary: St. John the Baptiſt's chantry; the former of theſe was valued at 15*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, the latter at 9*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*: Carpenter's chantry, at 13*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* In Edward VI.'s reign, at the time of the ſuppreſſion, this was called a great and populous town, containing by eſtimation one thouſand inhabitants and more.

ROXWELL.

THIS place derives its name, in all probability, from the number of wells and ſprings with which it abounds. It is not mentioned in Domeſday-book. It lies about four miles north-weſt of Chelmsford, in the road leading from that town to Margaret Roding, and contains about 2000 acres of land. It is a chapelry or hamlet, and belonging to the pariſh of Writtle; it does not appear even to have been a diſtinct pariſh or preſentation. If it is a chapel of eaſe to Writtle, the inhabitants are not bound towards the repairs of the mother church, as appears from a deed, dated 1597, in poſſeſſion of Thomas Bramſton, Eſq.

Here are ſeveral manors, but they are all within the manor of Writtle, which comprehends all the lands in Roxwell, of which thoſe of Skrenes and Duke are not held but of the king in capite. The manors, or reputed manors, here are ſix; that of Boyton-hall, of Skrenes, of Tye-hall, of Mountneys, of Dukes, and of Newland-hall.

The manor of Boyton-hall, in the reign of Edward I., is mentioned as a conſiderable thoroughfare; it always went with that of Writtle as part of the ancient demeſnes. Henry Duke of Buckingham died in 1546 ſeiſed of this manor, as well as of Writtle: they being forfeited to the crown upon the attainder of one of his ſucceſſors in 1551, were granted by Queen Mary to Sir William Petre, Knight, and Anne his wife; in whoſe poſterity they now continue.

The manſion-houſe of the manor of Skrenes ſtands on the left ſide of the road going from Roxwell to Skellow, about a mile beyond Roxwell church. It was rebuilt in an elegant ſtyle ſome years ſince by its preſent poſſeſſor. The name is derived from a family of note, which was poſſeſſed formerly of this and many other eſtates in the county. William Skrene, of Writtle and of Clifford's Inn, was ſerjeant

at law in Henry IV.'s reign in 1409. The laſt of this family died in the reign of Edward IV. The manor and eſtates were after this releaſed to William Lord Haſtings. They came afterwards into the family of Farmer. Henry VIII. in 1544 granted theſe manors and eſtates, lately belonging to Richard Farmer, attainted of high treaſon, to Richard Sampford, yeoman. In this family it continued but a very ſhort time, for William Sampford in 1546 ſold the premiſes to Chriſtopher Allen; and in 1554 Richard Sampford alienated them to Richard Weſton, Eſq., of a Staffordſhire family, one of whoſe deſcendants was created Earl of Portland. Thomas Earl of Portland in 1635 ſold it to Sir John Bramſton, Knight, Lord Chief Juſtice of the King's Bench; a family derived from William Bramſton, Sheriff of London in 1594. It has ever ſince continued in that family. It is remarkable that the poſſeſſors of this eſtate have all been perſons who have raiſed themſelves to eminence in the law, a circumſtance which has attended no other eſtate in this county.

The manor of Tye-hall has a manſion-houſe moated round, and ſtands at ſome diſtance from the road, on the left-hand between Roxwell church and Skrenes. It was formerly in the poſſeſſion of a great family, named Heveningham, in Suffolk. In 1415 Thomas Heveningham held the manor of the earldom of Hereford. From Thomaſia Heveningham the eſtate paſſed into the family of Thomas, who was her ſon and heir by her third huſband. William Thomas bore the name of William Walter, Eſq., of Roxwell: he held the eſtate in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It came afterwards to Sir Jerome Weſton and Sir Richard Earl of Portland; it is now in Thomas Bramſton, Eſq.

The manor of Mountneys, alias Rokeſwell, is ſo called from an ancient family of this ſurname, who were owners of the manor of Mountneyſing. The manſion-houſe ſtands on the left ſide of the road leading from Boyton-croſs to Margaret Roding, about half a mile from Newland-hall; it is large, and appears to have been a conſiderable ſeat. In the 28th of Edward I. John de Mountney held in Writtle 120 acres of land and 4 of meadow of Robert Lord Bruce. In Richard II.'s reign John Boreham, citizen and mercer of London, and others, demiſed to Robert Braybrooke, Biſhop of London, Sir Gerard Braybrooke, and others, all their lands in Writtle, &c. In the reign of Henry VI. it was in the Skrene family and Alice Strange. From the Fermors, or Farmers, it paſſed to the Lukyns. John Bullock, Eſq., of Falkburn-hall, in this county, now poſſeſſes it.

The manor of Dukes is a conſiderable farm, often called a manor; the manſion-houſe

houſe ſtands at the upper end of Roxwell-ſtreet, on the right ſide of the road leading from Roxwell church to Skrenes. It is not clearly aſcertained whence the name of Dukes is taken, unleſs it be from ſome ancient dukes who had the lordſhip of Writtle. It was formerly in the family of Skrenes, and paſſed from them to other perſons, of whom we find no account. John Cruſh, Gent., and his family, poſſeſſed it for ſeveral generations.

The manor of Newland-hall belonged to Harold King of England before the Conqueſt. At the time of the ſurvey, Euſtace Earl of Boulogne held the lordſhip by the name of Nevelanda. The manſion-houſe ſtands on the left-hand of the road leading from Boyton-croſs to Margaret Roding, about a mile from Roxwell church. A family of note took their name from this manor. In the year 1210 and 1211 Ralph de Novalanda held two fees in Novalanda of the honour of Boulogne. Walter Newland, in the reign of Henry VI., releaſed all his right here to William Taverner and Ellen Tironell; then Ellen gave up her right to William Taverner, ſon of Margery, one of the daughters and heireſſes of John, ſon of Mauger de la Neulond, and his heirs. Walter died in Henry VI.'s reign, and then it came again to Thomas, brother of Richard Newland. The eſtate was next in the Birdfield, or Berefield, family. John Birdfield died about 1514 in poſſeſſion of it. This manor and Margaretting, which he held, deſcended at his death to Margaret, wife of Robert Gedge, and Thomaſina, wife of William Daniel, couſin and heireſs of John Birdfield. Thomas Lightfoot alienated a moiety of it to Margaret Gedge in 1519, and the other half to Thomaſine Gedge. In 1538 George Gifford had licence to alienate one half of it to Richard Hales, and in 1540 to Thomas Arundell. The eſtate, however, ſtill remained in the Gedge family, for James Gedge held the manor in 1555. In 1565 Chriſtopher Harris and Edward Elliot, Gent., alienated it to Richard Lee and William Loveday, moſt probably in truſt for ſome uſe, as well as in the former alienations; for the eſtate was ſtill in the Gedge family. Edward Elliot, who had it in 1595, was of Biſhop Stortford, in Hertfordſhire; he held the manor of the queen; from him, by purchaſe or otherwiſe, it came into the Thwaite family. William Thwaite was citizen and alderman of London. Of ſome of his poſterity it was purchaſed by Richard How, Eſq., of Stondon Maſſey. His ſon enjoyed it next, and left it to William Taylor, of Great Hadham, in Hertfordſhire, in 1748, who afterwards took the name of William Taylor How. Within this chapelry a conſiderable family of the name of Young lived.

The church is a very ſmall building of one pace, on the left ſide of the road leading to Skellow Bowels, about two miles from Writtle, and four from Chelmsford. At the weſt end is a wooden turret, in which are three bells.

BROMFIELD.

THIS pariſh is ſituated very pleaſantly in the road from London and Chelmsford to Braintree, Sudbury, &c. The ſoil near the road, and eſpecially the place where the church ſtands, is very apt to produce broom, which unqueſtionably occaſioned the name. In the Saxons' time this diſtrict was poſſeſſed by different perſons. At the time of the ſurvey, it was in Godfrey de Magnaville, Odo Biſhop of Bayeux, and William of Warenne. There are four manors in the pariſh; Bromfield-hall, Patching-hall, Wood-hall, and Belſtead-hall.

The manor of Bromfield-hall has a manſion-houſe, which ſtands near the church. At the time of the ſurvey it was in Godfrey de Magnaville, who came in with William the Conqueror, and was by him rewarded with one hundred and eighteen lordſhips, forty of which were in Eſſex, and this among the reſt. King Stephen created his grandſon Earl of Eſſex. The Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Eſſex, had it afterwards. In 1399 Thomas de Mandeville dying without iſſue, his eſtates were divided between his two ſiſters, Joan, wife of John Barry, Eſq., and Alice, wife of Helmingius Legatt. Alice, for her ſhare, had the manor of Bromfield, and others; ſhe married Roger Spice, a ſecond huſband. This eſtate came into the Spices. Philippa Spice brought it to her huſband, John Forteſcue, Eſq., in about 1500. We find it next in the family of Riche. Sir Richard Riche held it in 1566. It continued in them till Charles Riche, Earl of Warwick, dying in 1673, the eſtates were divided between the female heirs of Robert the ſecond earl, and Robert the third earl, or their iſſues. This manor fell to Nicolas Earl of Scarſdale, who ſold it to Herman Olmius, merchant, of London.

The manors of Patching-hall and Wood-hall are put together, though ſometimes mentioned diſtinctly. Patching-hall ſtands on the right ſide of the road leading from Bromfield church to Chelmsford; it is a brick houſe, and little more than a mile from the town. The manor extends into part of Chelmsford. Wood-hall is at a conſiderable diſtance from it, on the north-weſt ſide of the church, near the road leading

leading from Chelmsford to Chicknal Smaley. In the time of the Saxons they were divided into three parcels, one held by Segar, but at the time of the ſurvey by Odo Biſhop of Bayeux; another by Edward, but at the time of the ſurvey by Geffrey de Mandeville; and the third by Borda, but at the ſurvey by Robert Gernon, and under him by Picot, whence the appellation of Picot or Patching hall aroſe. Richard was named Fitz-Gilbert in the time of the ſurvey, and held this manor. Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March, held a view of frankpledge here, and Edmund Earl of March in Henry VI.'s time. It continued a long time in the noble family of Bourchier. Robert Bourchier, Lord Chancellor in Edward III.'s time, held the manor of Wood-hall of the Biſhop of London. Henry Bourchier, being killed by a fall from his horſe in 1539, left an only daughter, Anne, who became the wife of William Lord Parre, afterwards Earl of Eſſex and Marquis of Northampton. In 1548 Sir Richard Riche had it of the Marquis. From this family it has paſſed to John Olmius, Eſq., with Bromfield-hall.

Belſtead-hall ſtands in the pariſh towards the eaſt and ſouth-eaſt, near New-hall park. Godric Poine was owner of it in the Saxons' time; and at the ſurvey, William de Warenne. Very little mention of it is made in old records. John Fermer in 1354 held a moiety of Belſtead-hall, in Bromfield, of William de Wauton, Knight. In 1558 John Wiſeman, Eſq., of Felſtead, held it. George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, alſo poſſeſſed it at the time of his violent death in 1628. It was afterwards in General Monk, Duke of Albemarle, and his poſterity, and has continued ever ſince in the owners of the New-hall eſtate; the chief part of which, with Belſtead-hall, is in Richard Hoare, Eſq., of Boreham.

A capital meſſuage, on the right-hand ſide of the road to Chelmsford between the road and parſonage, belonged formerly to Sewell. Sir Richard Everard, of Great Waltham, purchaſed it in the year 1716. George Lathbury, Gent., who married his youngeſt daughter, Anne, had it afterwards, and ſold it to Mr. Hanbury, of Coggeſhall.

Well-houſe, on the left ſide of the road to Chelmsford a little below the green of Bromfield, was formerly in —— Bullen, then in Burr, and in —— Marſh, who married Mary Burr, and whoſe daughter, Mary, left it from her relations to John Olmius, Eſq.

Butlers, on the ſame ſide of the road, is a little above Bromfield-green. In 1563 it was the eſtate of Mr. Paſcal, who ſoon ſold it to Wood. He in 1574 ſold it to

Mr.

Mr. Prow, and Prow in 1605 to Frith, who, not long after, paſſed it to Sir John Tryon, whoſe ſon ſold it to Robert Vincent: his grand-daughter, Elizabeth, widow of John Everley, Gent., ſold it to George Mertins, afterwards knighted, and Lord Mayor of London. Of him it was purchaſed by Daniel Scratton, Gent.

Priors, an eſtate in the ſouth-weſt part of the pariſh, lies about half a mile from the church. It originally belonged to the priory of Blackmore, which occaſioned its name. Henry VIII. granted it to Waltham-abbey in exchange for other lands. Upon the ſuppreſſion the king granted it in 1554 to Richard Roger and Robert Taverner. In the January following, William Garrard had licence to alienate Priors and a wood called Bromfield-grove to William Eyre and others. In 1562 William Eyre paſſed it away to Thomas Wallenger. From him in 1582 it went to Edward Elliott, and from Elliott to Manwood. It continued in this family till Thomas Manwood, dying without iſſue, left this and his other eſtates to Thomas Pocklington, attorney at law.

Scravels is another eſtate in this pariſh near Priors, formerly belonging to the Borſey family, and afterwards to Mr. Daniel Harrington.

Sixteen acres of land, which were formerly given for ſome other purpoſe, are now applied to the repairs and ornaments of the church, with another acre elſewhere. There are a few other donations.

The church ſtands on a green by the road ſide, and is of one pace with the chancel, with a little veſtry at the north-weſt corner. At the weſt end is a round tower of brick and ſtone, containing three bells; on the top of which is a ſpire ſhingled. Theſe round towers are ſuppoſed to have been built by the Danes, or according to their manner of architecture. This church, with the lands, tithes, and appurtenances, were given by Walter de Mandeville to the church of the Holy Trinity in London, and the canons there, and confirmed to that monaſtery by Henry III. in 1226. In 1293 this church was appropriated to that houſe by Richard de Graveſend, Biſhop of London, who then ordained a vicarage here, reſerving to himſelf and ſucceſſors the nomination of the vicars, whom the prior and convent were to preſent. Thus it continued till the ſuppreſſion, when about the year 1541 the whole patronage and right of this vicarage was granted to the Biſhop of London and his ſucceſſors, and has continued in their collation ever ſince. In 1289 the value of the church was found to be about thirty marks per annum; beſides nine acres of tithe; another acre, and the hay or firſt crop of two acres in Northrude, belonging to Bromfield-hall;

hall; beſides many other tithes, and a cuſtom which the vicar was obliged to adhere to of ſtrewing the church twice with ruſhes in ſummer, as the owners of the rectory were to do three times in winter with ſtraw. The impropriate tithes continued in the priory till the ſuppreſſion; upon which they were granted by Henry VIII. in 1546, with the parſonage, to William Harris, being at that time held by John Courtman. From Harris they paſſed to Richard Lord Riche, who made them part of the endowment of his free-ſchool and alms-houſe at Felſtead. There is paid out of Bromfield to the ſchool 68*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* per annum, and to the alms-houſe 18 buſhels of wheat, and 29 of malt.

The parſonage-houſe, glebe, and great tithes, are held by leaſe of Lord Riche, whoſe repreſentative is the Earl of Winchilſea. Of the leſſees was one John Attwood, Eſq., of Gray's Inn, who married Elizabeth, daughter and heireſs of Patrick Young, Eſq., a very learned man, librarian to Charles I. Other leſſees, or inhabitants of this parſonage, have been Edward Rigby, Eſq., Dr. Stewart, John Hill, and Richard Price, Eſqrs. It has been much improved by the two laſt, eſpecially by the latter, who has made it a comfortable gentleman's ſeat. Some part of the houſe was built by the Devereux family; their arms are cut in ſtone over the chimney. Edward Finch, Eſq., was an inhabitant afterwards; he is brother to the Earl of Winchilſea. Thomas Cox, M. A., vicar of this church, was a man of conſiderable learning; he held the vicarage from 1685 to 1734. His works, which are various, prove his extenſive and well-cultivated mind. The vicarage is diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 45*l.* per annum.

CHICKNAL.

ON the north-weſt of Bromfield are the two contiguous pariſhes, diſtinguiſhed from other each by the appellations of Chicknal St. Mary and St. James, and Chicknal Smaley. Chicken-hall appears to be the right name, as it is variouſly written; and this proves its derivation. In Domeſday-book it is written Cingehela.

Chicknal St. Mary and St. James took its name from the ſaints to which the two churches were dedicated, which formerly ſtood in it. It is alſo called Great or Magna Chicknal, and Chicknal Zoyn and Tany, from two ancient owners. Though theſe pariſhes are ſmall, yet in the time of the Saxons they were divided into eleven

different

different parts. When the ſurvey was made, Geffrey de Mandeville was lord paramount. In this pariſh are now reckoned two manors; Chiggenhall, and Hawes or Hittots.

The manſion-houſe of Chiggenhall St. Mary and St. James is rather large, and ſtands about half a mile north-weſt of the church. In the earlieſt times on record it was in the family of Tany, who were barons of the realm. Richard de Tani was ſheriff of Eſſex and Hertfordſhire in 1260. Margaret, ſiſter and heireſs of Laurence de Tani, married John de Drokensford, who died in 1341. About this time the eſtate was held by the Nevills under Drokensford. John de Neville, Earl of Eſſex, held both advowſons and manors. Lady Alice Neville held the manors of Chiggenhall Tany and Chiggenhall Zoyn of Alberic De Vere, Earl of Oxford, and Sir John Howard, Knight, till her death, which did not happen till 1395. The reverſion of theſe eſtates was in William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, and his iſſue; but he dying without iſſue, they deſcended to his two grand-daughters, his heireſſes; Eleanor, wife of Thomas Woodſtock, Duke of Glouceſter; and Mary, wife of Henry Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry IV. Upon the diviſion of the great eſtates of this noble family, this fell to Eleanor; but her mother enjoyed it during her life, for ſhe preſented three times to the living. Anne, daughter of Eleanor, was the perſon in whom all the honours and eſtates centred; ſhe had three huſbands, Thomas Earl of Stafford, who died without iſſue; her ſecond huſband was his brother, ſlain at Shrewſbury in 1403; her third huſband was William Bourchier, Earl of Eu, who died in 1420. She preſented five times to the living. Sir John Bourchier, her younger ſon, had theſe manors: his grandſon dying without iſſue, the manors reverted to the Stafford family; and in 1521 they fell to the crown, when the Duke of Buckingham was beheaded. In 1522 Henry VIII. granted the manor and advowſon to Chriſtopher Rocheſter and Henry his ſon for life; the ſame king afterwards granted the manor and advowſon to Ambroſe Barker, Knight, who preſented three times to the living. He died in 1560. Thomas, his ſon, in 1563 alienated them to Sir William Petre, Knight, and others. In this family it ſtill continues. There is a farm which goes with the manor, and is called Bretons.

The manor of Hawes, alias Hittots, was ſo named from two owners. The houſe ſtands about a mile from the church, on the left hand of the road to Chelmsford. Little mention of this occurs in ancient records. In the 24th of Edward I. Joan de Briançon granted to John de Hotot this eſtate in Chiggenhall Zoyn, conſiſting of

1 meſſuage, 80 acres of land, 4 of meadow, 12 of paſture, and 6 of wood; 10s. of rent, and a pound of cummin. John Wood, who died in 1529, held this manor of the king; William Peacock had it in 1638. It came afterwards to Edward Herbert, rector of Cranham and North Okendon, in this county. This manor is called Great Hawes; a houſe oppoſite to it, with a brick barn, is called Little Hawes. There are only eighteen houſes in this pariſh, and a few charitable donations.

The church is of one pace with the chancel; at the weſt end is a ſpire ſhingled, and three bells. Formerly here were two churches; one belonging to Chicknal Tany, the other to Chicknal Zoyn, one dedicated to St. Mary, the other to St. James. The former appears to be that which is taken down; for there is a field of the glebe called St. Mary's croft, in which a parcel of land, about the ſize of a church-yard, is encloſed with a bank and deep ditches on all ſides, except the weſt; and ſome ruins of a building have been taken up by the plough: brick and ſtones are ſtill remaining about the premiſes. The advowſon of the rectory was appendant to the manor, till ſevered from it by Joſeph Petre, Eſq., who ſold it with the advowſon of the pariſh of Malmſbury, to —— Stock, Gent., of Great Hallingbury. His ſon enjoyed it till his death in 1745, when he left it by will to Mrs. Carter, his niece, who brought it in marriage to John Shrigley, M. A., late incumbent of the pariſh. The living in the king's books is valued at 10*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* yearly.

CHICKNAL SMALEY.

THIS pariſh was called Smaley from an owner, and alſo ſometimes Trenchford, and Brick Chicknal, becauſe the church is built of brick; Chicknal Parva is another name for it. In it are two manors, that of Chicknal Smaley, alias Trenchfoyle, alias Dyves-hall, and the manor of Beremans.

The manor of Dyves-hall has a manſion-houſe, ſtanding about a quarter of a mile ſouth-eaſt from the church, partly ſurrounded by a moat; and was a large edifice, chiefly built by the Lukyn family; but ſome of it has been lately taken down. In the reign of Henry II. John de Trenchfuill held four knights fees here under Geffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Eſſex, who was lord paramount of both manors. This manor was in the earlieſt times after that in a family of Dyves, which

gave it the name; and under them it was held by the Bottetourts and other families. In the 4th of Edward I. Ida Bottetourt held a court at Chickenhal Trenchfoyle. Hugh, ſon of Otto, who died in Edward I.'s reign, held the manor of Robert Dyve by the rent of one clove gillyflower. The prior of Dunmow held a tenement in Plechedowne of the ſame manor. William Orrell held the eighth part of a fee of the ſame manor. Sir John Philibert preſented to the living in 1331. He held the manor. In 1333 John de Illegh held a court here; as did Sir John de Litton the next year: Walter Blount alſo in 1357. Thomas Blount preſented in 1394. Alice de Neville and John de Neville held at the ſame time two fees in the pariſh. Hitherto the manors of this pariſh appear to have been in one; but about the year 1400 we find traces of two, the owners of which preſented either jointly, ſeparately, or alternately, to the rectory. In 1429 the manor of Dyves-hall was in John Glaſcock, and continued in his family till 1559. It next came into the Lukyn family; it continued in them till 1668, when the eſtate deſcended to his firſt couſin, Joſeph Brand, Eſq. Sarah, widow of this Joſeph, was jointured in the eſtate, and poſſeſſed it till her deceaſe in 1729. Joſeph Brand ſold the reverſion to Job Marple, M.A., vicar of Boreham, a native of Derbyſhire. Mr. Marple left this eſtate to his grand-daughter, Sarah, daughter of Thomas Cook, married to the Rev. Mr. Child: they have left iſſue.

The manor of Beremans is ſo called from John Beremans, who was a tenant of it, though not an owner. It was originally part of the manor of Trenchfoyle, and was ſevered from it, with the advowſon of the church, about the beginning of the fifteenth century, when it came into the families of the name of Armenter and Rolf, who preſented ſeveral times to the living. The name of Rolf is very common in theſe parts, and they have held the farm for many years. In Elizabeth's time it came into the Porter family. In 1620 Abraham Porter ſold this eſtate to James Chaplin, who in 1626 ſold it again to William Haſelfoot, Gent. After the reſtoration it was purchaſed by Thomas Singleton, Gent., ſchoolmaſter, in Hogſden-ſquare, near London, who preſented to the rectory in 1666, and either he or his ſon again in 1677. Timothy Brand bought it of the ſon; he was ſucceeded by his ſon in 1734, Thomas Brand, Eſq. There are about three hundred acres of land in the pariſh, and only eighteen houſes.

The church is very ſmall; at the weſt end is a tower embattled, with only one bell. They are both built of brick. The advowſon has been appendant to the manor

manor of Dyves-hall and Beremans, the owners of which have preſented jointly, but of late alternately. Chicknal Smaley rectory is valued at 41*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books, and is diſcharged.

Dunmow Hundred.

THE hundred of Dunmow is of a long and narrow ſhape, being twenty miles in length, and not more than eight in breadth, in the broadeſt part of it. It is bounded on the north by the hundred of Freſhwell and Uttesford; on the eaſt, by part of the hundreds of Chelmsford, Freſhwell, and Hinchford; on the weſt, by part of Uttesford, Harlow, and Ongar; which laſt bounds is on the ſouth. It derives its name from Dunmow, which is the chief town in it, and within the archdeaconry of Middleſex. The hundred is in the diſpoſal of the ſheriff of Eſſex at the time being.

In this hundred are twenty-ſix pariſhes; thoſe which belong to the circle which is the ſubject of our conſideration, are Pleſhy, High Eaſter, Good Eaſter, Maſhbury, High Roding, Eythorp, White, Morell, Leaden, Margaret, Berners, Skellow Bowels, Willingale Don, Willingale Spain. The name of Dunmow ſeems to be formed from the two Saxon words, which ſignify dun, a hill; and mow, a heap, implying a raiſed way, as it ſtands upon the old cauſeway, or Roman road, which leads from Biſhop's Stortford to Colcheſter. There is alſo a Saxon word, which ſignifies to mow, given on account of the fertility of the hill: others have derived it from two Celtic words, dunum, a gravelly ſoil; and magus, a town, as they imagined that here was the ancient Cæſaromagus. This is, however, confuted by the Itinerary, as Cæſaromagus was ſituated about Writtle or Chelmsford.

The town ſtands upon a hill, and in a fertile and pleaſant country, about thirty-ſeven miles from London; but as it lies out of the plan propoſed in this work, we muſt proceed to thoſe pariſhes which are within the circumference.

PLESHY.

PLESHY is now only an obſcure village, though a very conſiderable townſhip formerly: for from the earlieſt times to the year 1400, it was the ſeat of the high

conſtables of England. It appears to have been a conſiderable place long before the Conqueſt; and even in the Roman times was a villa or fortreſs: there is ſtill a ditch or entrenchment which encompaſſes the north, weſt, and eaſt parts of the preſent village, that is, all that is north of the road, and having the remains of another correſponding on the ſouth ſide. It begins in a field acroſs the road north of the church. On the ſame ſide of the way, in a field about a quarter of a mile from the church in the road leading to High Eaſter, was found a fine glaſs urn, with ſome bones burnt in it, which Samuel Tufnell, Eſq., laid before the Society of Antiquaries. The name of Pleſhy is generally derived from the French word plaiſir, pleaſure, as the place is pleaſantly ſituated on high ground, with a very good proſpect, eſpecially towards the ſouth; and is watered with a brook to the north, and a rill to the ſouth, ſufficient to ſupply any canals with water. It was formerly rendered agreeable by the buildings, fortifications, and parks, which adorned it. Camden ſays, that William de Magnaville, or Mandeville, was the founder of the caſtle here; but it was undoubtedly of a much more ancient date. Of this caſtle nothing remains at preſent but the outwork, fortified or ſurrounded with a double moat. The outer part, called the Caſtle-yard, contains about two acres of ground, and was the ſite of the caſtle, from whence, by a brick bridge of one arch, very lofty, is a paſſage over a deep moat to the keep, which is a high artificial mount of earth, of an oval form, 45 paces in length, and 25 over in the width. In the Confeſſor's reign a freeman poſſeſſed it; and at the time of the ſurvey, Euſtace Earl of Boulogne had it. Maud, grand-daughter of Euſtace, having married King Stephen, by that means Pleſhy became veſted in the crown, with the reſt of Euſtace's rich poſſeſſions. When King Stephen created Geffrey de Mandeville Earl of Eſſex, he conferred upon him the caſtle and manor of Pleſhy; but that earl ungratefully forſaking him, he was impriſoned by the king, and obliged, in order to obtain his liberty, to give up the tower of London, of which he was had the cuſtody, and likewiſe his own caſtles of Waleden and Pleſhy. But Henry II. reſtored them to his ſon. In 1190 William de Magnaville dying without iſſue, was ſucceeded by Beatrice de Say, grand-daughter of his aunt, who had married William de Say. Beatrice, this heireſs, was married to Geffrey Fitz-Piers, of Ludgerſhall caſtle, in Wiltſhire, Chief Juſtice of England, who in her right was made Earl of Eſſex, and his ſons took the name of Mandeville. William, one of them, dying in 1227, entailed all his lands with the earldom upon his ſiſter Maud, wife of Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford. It continued in this family till Humphrey, dying

dying in 1372, left only two daughters, Eleanor and Mary, coheireſſes. Eleanor married Thomas of Woodſtock, Duke of Glouceſter, ſo often mentioned before; and with her he came into poſſeſſion of the caſtle and manor of Pleſhy among others. The Duke of Glouceſter was uncle to the reigning king, Richard II., a man of much valour, probity, and virtue; he had of courſe great weight in all matters of public buſineſs. But having imperiouſly treated his uncle, and entangled the affairs of government, the king reſolved to put him out of the way. For that purpoſe he came to him to Pleſhy one evening in the ſummer, and required his uncle to accompany him to London that night. When arrived near Stratford-le-Bow, the king riding off, a party which lay in ambuſcade with Thomas Mowbray, earl marſhal, ſeized the duke, and hurried him to the water-ſide, where a ſhip was ready, which conveyed him to Calais. There he was kept priſoner till September 1397, when he was ſtifled between two feather-beds; and being in the following parliament declared a traitor, all his lands and poſſeſſions were forfeited to the king. However, his widow Eleanor, at the time of her death in 1399, enjoyed the caſtle and manor of Pleſhy, with moſt of the eſtates that had belonged to her anceſtors, with the office of high conſtable of England. On a partition of the eſtates of Humphrey de Bohun, the laſt Earl of Eſſex, in 1421, between Henry V., ſon of Mary, youngeſt daughter of Thomas of Woodſtock, and Anne Counteſs of Stafford, this caſtle and manor, with the park, then valued at 106*l.* 8*s.*, fell to the king's ſhare; from which time they were united to the dutchy of Lancaſter. In 1547 Edward VI. granted to Sir John Gate the manor of Pleſhy and the parks. Upon his attainder in 1553, on account of his embracing the cauſe of Lady Jane Gray, all his eſtates fell to the crown, and in it this manor remained. The great park, which, in the reign of Edward I. in 1320, was enlarged and encloſed with 150 acres of land by Humphrey Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, came by purchaſe or otherwiſe to Richard Lord Riche, who had it at the time of his death in 1566, and it became incorporated with the demeſnes of Waltham Bury, and has paſſed with them to the preſent owner. The little park of Pleſhy, with a meſſuage belonging to it in Pleſhy and Great Waltham, was purchaſed by Sir Robert Clarke, one of the barons of the exchequer, who held it in fee farm of the honour of Mandeville, and died poſſeſſed of it in 1607, and of other eſtates in this pariſh. Robert Clarke, or his father, who died in 1629, built the houſe here, called the Lodge; and as the old materials were undoubtedly employed about it, it is not to be wondered at that there now appear no remains of them: a few foundations only

were

were diſcovered ſome time ago in planting trees. The heirs and ſucceſſors of Robert Clarke remained poſſeſſed of the lodge and eſtate here, of the ſite of the caſtle and college, and of the tithes of the pariſh, till Robert Clarke, Eſq., of Riſehams, joining with his mother, ſold them in 1720 to Sir William Jolliffe, Knight, who died in 1750, and was buried in the church. He left his eſtate here, being unmarried, to his nephew, Samuel Tufnell, Eſq., of Langleys, in Great Waltham.

Pleſhy Bury is another eſtate in this pariſh, the manſion-houſe of which lies near a mile weſt from the church towards High Eaſter. It was probably part, or the whole of High Eaſter park. It holds a court, and now belongs to the Tylney heireſs.

A college was founded here about the year 1393 by Thomas of Woodſtock, Duke of Glouceſter, for nine chaplains. It was dedicated to the Holy Trinity. He ſet aſide ſix acres of ground, with which he built the college on the ſouth ſide of the preſent church, and endowed his foundation with nine more acres of land in the pariſh, with the manor of Berneſton, in this county; that of Wells, in Hertfordſhire; thoſe of Bokingfield and Whitſtable, in Kent; and the advowſon of the church of Whitſtable; and power to appropriate the churches of Whitſtable and Bokingfield to their own uſe; the whole being valued at 104*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* per annum. The manor of South Fambridge was afterwards added to it by Sir John Cobham, Sir John Harleſton, and others, in 1395. The collegiate church was in the form of a croſs, and from that time became a pariſh church, the original church being thus transferred, which ſtood on the oppoſite ſide of the road. There had been a rectory before, which patronage Geoffrey de Mandeville had given to his abbey of Walden, and they had preſented till 1389. Iſabel, the Duke of Glouceſter's daughter, had given 20*l.* per annum for twenty years to the prieſts to celebrate maſs for her. Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who was killed at the battle of Northampton in 1460, was buried here with his wife and children, of whom John Earl of Wiltſhire gave one hundred marks by will to purchaſe lands for the augmentation of the number, with three prieſts and ſix poor men. He alſo appointed a chapel to be built and hallowed to the worſhip of the Holy Trinity and our Lady on the north ſide of the church. Anne, his widow, ſettled forty marks. Sir Henry Stafford gave 160*l.* to buy land for a prieſt for ever. Edward Earl of Wiltſhire founded a chantry here of 13*l.* 4*s.* yearly rent; with which ſum lands were purchaſed, and endowed to the college of that value. The college was valued, at the time

time of the ſuppreſſion, at 143*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* in the whole, and 139*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* clear yearly value. The patronage of it was in the Staffords Dukes of Buckingham. Henry VIII. in 1546 granted to John Gate, Eſq., one of the gentlemen of his privy chamber, the whole college of Pleſhy, and the houſe and ſite of that college; and the rectory and church of Pleſhy, and all the manors of South Fambridge and Barnſton, with appurtenances belonging to the college; and the advowſon of the vicarage of the church of Pleſhy; with the manor and parſonage of Whitſtable, and the manor of Bokingfield in Kent, and Wells in Hertfordſhire. This man, who was of a covetous diſpoſition, pulled down the chancel for the ſake of making money of the materials. Upon his arraignment and condemnation in 1553 they came again to the crown. Queen Elizabeth in 1564 granted the ſite and appurtenances to William Poole and Edmund Downing; and in 1589 made a freſh grant of them to William Tippen and Robert Dawe, of whom they were purchaſed by Sir Robert Clarke. In 1560 the queen granted a part of the tithes to the dean and chapter of Weſtminſter, who have ever ſince leaſed them out, and laſt to Sir William Jolliffe; all the other tithes, both great and ſmall, have gone with the college, and are now in the poſſeſſion of John Jolliffe Tuffnell, Eſq. Ever ſince the building of the college, and the appropriation of the tithes, and profits of the pariſh to it, the maſter had the curacy of it, and performed all the parochial duties. After the diſſolution the church became a donative, or perpetual curacy, in the diſpoſal of the owner of the ſite of the college, with a ſtipend of 8*l.* per annum: but it was in 1721 augmented with 200*l.* by Lady Moyer, one of the ſiſters of Sir William Jolliffe; and in 1728 with 300*l.* more by her daughter and executrix, Mrs. Jennings. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 41*3l.* 10*s.*

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, or the Holy Trinity, was large, and in the form of a croſs, with the tower in the middle. The church ſoon fell into decay after the deſertion of the family of the high conſtables, and the deſtruction of the college, the inhabitants not being able to keep up the repairs, till by the munificence of one of the biſhops a neat ſmall church was built of brick about the year 1708. The tower ſtill remained ruinous, and there was no chancel till the late Samuel Tuffnell, Eſq., built a handſome chancel, and under it a vault for his family. He alſo new caſt the five bells, repaired the top of the tower, and erected a monument for Sir William Jolliffe.

HIGH

HIGH EASTER.

THIS pariſh is ſituated on high ground, and lies weſt-north-weſt of Pleſhy. The name of Eaſter is probably taken from a ſtreet to the eaſt, or from its ſituation with regard to Roding. High Eaſter belonged, before the Conqueſt, to the abbey of Ely; but Eſgar, conſtable of the army in the Confeſſor's reign, ſeized it, and they could not regain it without granting him a life eſtate in it: he was, however, thrown into priſon by order of the Conqueror, where he ended his days. Eſgar being thus diſpoſſeſſed, Eaſter was given to Geffrey de Mandeville, and was not reſtored to Ely abbey, becauſe the Conqueror's enemies had there found refuge and protection. In this pariſh are the following manors: High Eaſter, Hayrons, Mannocks or Belhouſe, Powers, Garnets and Marks, and the manor of Berwick, partly in this pariſh and partly in Roding Abbeſs. The rectory or parſonage is alſo a manor.

The manor-houſe is called High Eaſter Bury, and joins the weſt end of the church-yard. Beatrice de Say had it after the Mandeville family; ſhe brought it to her huſband Geffrey Fitz-Piers in her right Earl of Eſſex. Maud brought it to Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, and Lord High Conſtable of England. In 1371 Eleanor, wife of Thomas of Woodſtock, Duke of Glouceſter, had it; and after their death it came to Anne, one of their daughters and coheireſſes, married to Edmund Earl of Stafford, who died poſſeſſed of it in 1403: after that it came, as did Pleſhy, to King Henry V., who annexed it to his dutchy of Lancaſter. Richard III., to engage Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, to his party, made him a grant of it, and the reſt of the Bohun eſtates, in 1483; but his enjoyment of it was very ſhort; and it reverted to the crown as part of the dutchy of Lancaſter. In 1629 King Charles I. ſold the ſite of the manor, that is, High Eaſter Bury farm, to the city of London for money, which that city had lent him: it was then valued at 10*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* per annum, which at 28 years purchaſe made 284*l.* 18*s.*: the rent reſerved was 10*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* per annum. The farm belonged lately to the Rev. Mr. Maſter, rector of Woodford, valued at about 100*l.* per annum; of whoſe ſon, the Rev. Mr. Maſter, it has been purchaſed by John Jolliffe Tuffnell, Eſq. A court leet, for the honour of Mandeville and Tutbury, is kept here yearly on the Tueſday after Michaelmas day. The payments to this court are according to the number and quantity of knights fees after death only. But to the honour of Clare, fines are paid after alienation as well as death in this manor.

The

The manor of Hayrons has a manſion-houſe, about a mile and a half ſouth from the church on the left hand of the road leading to Good Eaſter. It is old and moated round, and appears to have taken the name from Ralph de Hayron, who, with William de Pincerna, held half a fee of Geoffrey de Mandeville in the reign of Henry II. John Gedge in 1556 held the manor of Hayrons of the queen as of her dutchy of Lancaſter; three daughters were his heireſſes. William Glaſſcock in 1632 held the manor of the king. It has ever ſince continued in that family.

The manor of Mannocks is ſo called from a family as early as the reign of Edward IV., who were in poſſeſſion of it: it conſiſted in that reign of two manors, called Belhouſe, or Bellowes, and Powers. The manſion-houſe is about a mile and more from the church eaſt-north-eaſt, and a quarter of a mile on the right hand out of the road leading to Dunmow. John Mannock held two manors here of the Ducheſs of Buckingham. Sir Francis Mannock ſold it, and it has ever ſince belonged to the family of Brand.

The manor of Garnets and Merks, the manſion-houſe of which is two miles north-eaſt from the church, on the right hand of the road to Dunmow near Biſhop's Green. This manor had its name from the two ancient families of Garnet and Merks. About 1165 Geoffrey Garnet held one knight's fee here under Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Eſſex. It was afterwards in the Gate family; Thomas Gate, Eſq., had it in the reign of Edward III. Sir John Gate was condemned and beheaded in 1553 for eſpouſing the cauſe of Lady Jane Gray, upon which all his eſtates fell to the crown. In 1558 Queen Mary granted the manor of Garnets and Merks, with others, to Richard Weſton, Eſq., and Margaret his wife. In 1561 Richard Weſton alienated Garnets and Merks to Kenelm Throgmorton and John Pairott. In 1563 Throgmorton ſold it to William Fytche, Eſq. This manor was lately in the family of Dyer of Dunmow. Sir Swyn Neſton's executors ſold it in 1740 to Sir Brownlow Sherrard; but that purchaſe not being completed, they were both brought to John Henniker, Eſq.

The manor of Berwick is partly in this pariſh. Sir Ralph Berners held it in the time of Edward I. under Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex. In the reign of Edward VI. it was in the crown, for that king in 1547 gave it, with appurtenances, to Sir John Gate by way of exchange; it was then valued at 13*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* It was afterwards in the Capel family. There is in this pariſh a hamlet, commonly called Pantlo or Pentlow End, about a mile northward from the church towards

High Roding. In 1301, under Humphrey de Bohun, Gilbert de Stanford held one fee in the parish. There are other estates here. The parish is rated to the land-tax at 2152*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, and is very extensive.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is very large and lofty, consisting of a body and north aisle, the upper end of which is called Garnet's chancel, because it was the burial-place of the family; the chancel is of one pace, but has a good vestry on the north side. At the west end is a high tower, containing five bells, and on the top is a spire, small, but leaded, with a bell. At the two corners of the chancel are several bricks, which seem to be Roman; they are at least of that form and size. The church was given by Geoffrey de Mandeville to his foundation of Walden-abbey, and the donation confirmed by King Stephen and Henry II. The rectory and great tithes were from time immemorial appropriated to that monastery, and a vicarage ordained and endowed, of which the abbot and convent were patrons till their suppression. After the general dissolution, the rectory impropriate, which is a manor, was granted by Henry VIII. to Thomas Lord Audley in 1538. But King Edward VI. in 1547 settled it, by way of exchange, on the dean and chapter of St. Paul, with the advowson of the vicarage, of which they have ever since continued patrons. The rectory is held under them by lease; lately by the Glasscock family, of Fernham and Brises; then by Robert Chester, Esq., who forfeiting it to the South-Sea Company, it was purchased by Sir William Jolliffe. The manor-house of the rectory is about half a mile north-east from the church. The vicarage is valued in the king's books at 14*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, and is not discharged.

GOOD EASTER.

THIS parish lies south of the former. The name of Good, which distinguishes it from the other, was given to it since the Conquest. In the Confessor's reign it was held by a king's thane. Earl Eustace gave it to the collegiate church of St. Martin-le-grand in London, founded about the year 700 by Withred king of Kent, but rebuilt and endowed chiefly by two Saxon noblemen, Ingelric, and Edward or Girard, his brother, about the year 1056. That foundation was confirmed by William the Conqueror in 1068. The name of this place, besides Good Estre, is written in records, Godicestra and Godichester. This parish was anciently called the Pre-

bend

bend of Good Eaſter, and the pariſh church a prebendal church, becauſe wholly appropriated to the college of St. Martin. Four prebendaries of it had their endowments in this pariſh, named Paſlows, Imbers, Fawkeners, and Bowers; and to each of them a houſe belonged here. Fawkeners is on the ſouth ſide of the church. Imbers ſtands oppoſite to it on the right hand. Bowers and Paſlows are both down; the former ſtood behind the vicarage-houſe, and the latter below it, being a large building moated round. Theſe four were reckoned diſtinct manors, and afterwards divided into others, named Newarks, or Newlands fee, and Wares. Peter de Cuſance held to farm in the reign of Edward I. or II. two carucates of land here under two of the prebendaries that were aliens: he was diſhoneſt enough to ſell great part of that land to John Pointon and his heirs; for which the dean and chapter of St. Martin were forced to prefer a petition to the king and council. Henry VI. confirmed to the college of St. Martin-le-grand this eſtate of Eaſter. Henry VII. gave this pariſh in 1492, with the collegiate church of St. Martin-le-grand, and the ſanctuary belonging to it, to the monaſtery of St. Peter, Weſtminſter, where it continued till the ſuppreſſion. It was exempt from the juriſdiction of the biſhop or archdeacon till Edward VI. brought it under the government of the Biſhop of London. Weſtminſter-abbey being diſſolved in 1539, and all its poſſeſſions being veſted in the crown, Henry VIII. made this in 1540 part of his poſſeſſions of his newly-erected biſhopric of Weſtminſter; after the ſuppreſſion of which he granted in 1542 the manor and hereditaments called Newarks in Good Eaſter, formerly belonging to St. Peter's, Weſtminſter, with the tithes, &c., and Newlands fee in Good Eaſter, with the prebends and capital meſſuages of Paſlows, Imbers, Fawkeners, and Bowers, the rectory of Good Eaſter, and advowſon of the vicarage, to Sir Richard Riche and heirs. Two years after, the king granted him the yearly tenth or reſerved rent to the crown of 6*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* out of the manor of Newarks, and other lands in Good Eaſter, &c., parcels of the poſſeſſions of the ſaid monaſtery and other religious houſes, amounting to the ſum of 69*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* per annum, for the ſum of 1100*l.* He died poſſeſſed of them in 1566. Robert Riche ſold them in 1620 to Sir Henry Mildmay, of Graces, with all his poſſeſſions in Good Eaſter, except the advowſon of the vicarage and ſpiritual juriſdiction. His grand-daughter, Elizabeth Waterſon, ſold them ſome years ago to James Bonnel, Eſq.

The manor of Newarks or Newlands fee has a manſion-houſe lying in a bottom, about a mile and a half ſouth-eaſt from the church by the ſide of the road leading to

Roxwell. A court is kept there. It was purchaſed of Richard Lord Riche by Sir Robert Clarke, baron of the exchequer, who made it his place of reſidence. He died in 1606 poſſeſſed of it, of Pleſhy lodge and other eſtates, particularly in this pariſh. It was after that, in —— Harriſon, Eſq.

The manor of Wares has a large houſe, moated round, in a bottom, by the ſide of the road leading from Good Eaſter to Maſhbury. It was held of the collegiate church of St. Martin. Alice Strange, who died in 1459, held the manor of Wares of the dean of St. Martin's: John Skrene, her grandſon, was her next heir. He died in 1474. James Gedge, Eſq., of Newland-hall in Roxwell, held this manor of Wares of the queen, as of her dutchy of Lancaſter; and at the time of his death, in 1555, he left three daughters coheireſſes. Sir Samuel Thwayt, Knight, of Newland-hall, in Roxwell, who died in 1636, had this manor, and many others, and the tithes of ſeveral fields. Thoſe tithes after that were in the poſſeſſion of Mrs. Thwayt, and partly in the heirs of Mr. John Sandford; but the manor belongs to John Naſh, Gent., of London. There are alſo other eſtates in the pariſh. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 1181*l.* 2*s.*

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew, and conſiſts of a body leaded, and a ſouth aiſle: in the church are ſeveral cells and arches of ſtone cut in the wall. The tower of ſtone at bottom, and of timber above that, with a ſhingled ſpire, contains five bells. After the ſuppreſſion of the college of St. Martin's-le-grand, which had this church, with the advowſon of the vicarage, and all the eccleſiaſtical juriſdiction of it, the nomination of the vicarage came to the Riche family, and continued in them till the death of Charles Earl of Warwick, being reſerved in the ſale of Sir Robert Clarke. Since the death of the Earl of Warwick it has paſſed through ſeveral hands. In 1711 William Arnold preſented to the living: in 1744, Mary Harriſon, and alſo in 1745 and 1746: in 1762, John Yeldham, Eſq. The vicarage is diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 40*l.*

MASHBURY.

THIS pariſh lies ſouth-eaſt of Good Eaſter. The word Bury commonly ſignifies a capital manſion; and the firſt ſyllable of the name of this pariſh is taken from one Macy, whoſe fee is here mentioned in an old deed, as it were Macy's bury. Aluena, a free

a free woman, held it in the Confeſſor's reign; but it had been moated by Geffrey de Mandeville, though William the Conqueror gave it to Ulric: part of it was a berewic, or hamlet, to Good Eaſter, and lay in Chelmsford hundred. It continued in the Mandeville family till by the failure of male iſſue it came to Fitz-Piers; and by Maud, daughter of Fitz-Piers, Earl of Eſſex, was brought in marriage to Henry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex. Humphrey, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, who died in 1372, held two fees here, that were before held here by William Botteveleyn. His two daughters and coheireſſes, Eleanor, married to Thomas of Woodſtock, Duke of Glouceſter, and Mary to Henry Plantagenet, Earl of Derby, afterwards King Henry IV., ſhared his large eſtates; in the partition of which, made in 1421 between Henry V. and Anne Counteſs of Stafford, this manor and appurtenances, then valued at 13*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, fell to the king's ſhare, and was by him annexed to the dutchy of Lancaſter. It appears to have been generally part of the dowers of the Queens of England. Margaret, Queen of Henry VI., preſented to the church, which was appendant to the manor in 1448; as did alſo Elizabeth, conſort of Edward IV., in 1471 and 1491; and Anne Boleyn in 1535. In 1509 Henry VIII. granted it to his firſt Queen Catharine of Arragon in part of her jointure. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted this manor, with appurtenances, and the advowſon, to Geffrey Lukyn and his heirs. In 1554 William Lukyn alienated the manor and rectory of the church, and the manor of Matching, to Sir William Petre. His poſterity have enjoyed it ever ſince.

Maſhbury-hall ſtands on the ſouth ſide of the church, and is the moſt conſiderable eſtate in the pariſh. There are two other eſtates here. This ſmall pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 361*l.* 8*d.*

The church is of one pace with the chancel. At the weſt end is a ſteeple, with a ſpire ſhingled, containing three bells. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor till lately. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 9*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, and is not diſcharged.

HIGH RODING.

THE name of Roding is either derived from the river Rodon, which runs through theſe pariſhes, or from two Saxon words, which ſignify a croſs, a rood, and a meadow or paſture, from ſome noted croſs about this place. There were formerly nine

nine places of this name; but now there are only eight; that of Morrels being united to White Roding. The eight Rodings are, High, Aythorp, White, Leaden, Margaret, Berners, Abbefs, and Beauchamp. The fix firft are in this hundred of Dunmow: and the two laft in the hundred of Ongar, which have already been defcribed.

High Roding was fo called, either becaufe it ftood higher up the river, or upon higher ground than the others. It is alfo called Great Roding, being formerly conſidered as the chief. High and Aythorp Roding belonged before the Conqueft to the monaftery of Ely. But the monks having incurred the Conqueror's difpleafure, for fheltering fome Engliſh who would not fubmit to his yoke, he ftript them of many lordfhips, and this among the reft, which he gave to William de Warenne, who was related to William the Conqueror, and accompanied him in his expedition to England, and was rewarded by him with 21 lordfhips in this county, 139 in Norfolk, and many others elfewhere. He was made Earl of Surry by William Rufus, and died in 1088. It continued in this family till John died in 1347, and who was ſucceeded by his ſiſter, wife of Edmund Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel; beheaded in 1326. Thomas Earl of Arundel dying in 1414 without ſurviving iſſue, his eſtates were divided among his ſiſters, coheireſſes, Elizabeth Ducheſs of Norfolk, and, at his death, wife of Sir Gerard Ufflet; Joanna de Beauchamp, Lady Abergavenny; and Margaret, wife of Sir Rowland Lenthall. Elizabeth had the third part of two parts of this manor, and the advowſon of the church. Margaret and her huſband, Sir Rowland, the ſame. Their ſon dying without iſſue, his ſhare came to the heirs of the other two ſiſters, John Duke of Norfolk and George Nevill. Thomas Boteler, Earl of Ormond, was poſſeſſed of it in 1477. His daughter married Sir William Boleyn, grandfather of Anne Boleyn, Queen of England. Sir William in 1541 alienated the manor to William Nevill; but in 1554 ſold it by licence to Sir Thomas Joſſelyn, who died in 1562. This family is of very great antiquity, there being 24 ſucceſſive generations in their pedigree. In this family it ſtill remains. High Roding Hall, or Bury, ſtands near the church. Newhall Joſſelyn, or Davies Hall, is near a mile weſt from the church. It appears to have been built by ſome of the family in the beginning of the ſeventeenth century as a place of reſidence. It was a large houſe, with a court and chapel, but much decayed.

Bowells, a capital meſſuage in this pariſh, ſtands not far from Aythorp Roding church. Matthew Barnard, who died in 1603, held a ſmall eſtate here, called the manor

manor and farm of Potters and Millers. Thomas Aylett, his grandſon, was his next heir. George Joſſelyn, Eſq., of Sawbridgeworth, and his ſon John, of High Roding, gave ſix milch cows for ever; the profit of two of them for the repairs of the church, the other four for an obit for themſelves and anceſtors. James Chopping in 1616 gave ſome ſmall benefactions. A ſchool-houſe in the ſtreet was endowed by Sir Strange Joſſelyn and his brother Edward, rector here, for teaching poor children.

The church is dedicated to All Saints; it is pleaſantly ſituated, but is a ſmall building, of one pace with the chancel. It has a little wooden turret, with a ſhingled ſpire, and contains three bells. This rectory was given by ſome of the noble family of Warenne to the priory of Lewes, in Suſſex, which was their foundation. In continued in their diſpoſal till the ſuppreſſion of monaſteries; when coming to the crown, it was given by Henry VIII. to Thomas Lord Cromwell. Upon his attainder it reverted to the crown, and was paſſed with the manor to the Joſſelyn family, in whoſe gift it has remained ever ſince. There is no trace of any parſonage to be found here. This may be attributed to the monaſtery of Lewes, who robbed the living under form of a penſion, and probably employed ſome monk to perform the duty of the church. The rectory of High Roding is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 20*l.* per annum.

RODING AYTHORP.

THIS pariſh derived its name from an owner, called Aythorp, before the reign of Edward I.; it is alſo written Roinges Grumbalds. It ſtands ſouth of High Roding. Before the Conqueſt it belonged to Leofwin, a nobleman who, to atone for the murder of his mother, gave the lands here to the abbey of Ely. They were taken from it by William the Conqueror on account of their harbouring his enemies; and William de Warenne had a part of it at the time of the ſurvey. Samar, a freeman, held a part in the Confeſſor's reign, which Eudo Dapifer and his tenant had afterwards. Beſides the manor of Aythorp Roding Hall, of which the manſion ſtands at the weſt end of the church, there are two other manors in the pariſh, namely, Keers and Friars Grange.

The manor of Aythorp Roding Hall appears to have been part of the endowment

of the biſhopric of Ely; for Nigel, the ſecond biſhop of that ſee, granted it to Alberic De Vere, Earl of Oxford. In 1165 Simon de Roinges held two fees here of the Biſhop of Ely; but Alberic had the ſervice of them; and in 1221 the Earl of Oxford held four fees of the biſhop. Robert and William Roothing poſſeſſed them in the reign of Henry III. This manor appeared afterwards in a ſucceſſion of five generations, ſurnamed De Aythorp; but they ſeem to have been under the Earls of Oxford. Edward I. and Eleanor his wife gave to Guido de Ferre and Margery his wife this manor, which belonged formerly to Robert de Roothing, and which he leaſed and ſurrendered. Guido de Ferre preſented to the living in 1322. In 1310 he had licence to impark his wood of Aythorp Roding; and at the time of his death held this manor and advowſon of the church of the Earl of Oxford in capite by knight's ſervice. In 1337 Sir Thomas Weſton, brother of Sir Humphrey Weſton, of Preſted-hall, had this eſtate. A fine was levied between him and his wife and Richard de Tywerhele of this manor and advowſon. Margaret, their daughter and heireſs, brought this eſtate to her huſband, John de Lovain, of Little Eaſton. Eleanor, one of her daughters and coheireſſes, brought this eſtate from her ſiſter, who gave it to her, to her huſband Sir William Bourchier. The part which lay in this pariſh conſiſted of two knights fees, which Henry Lord Viſcount Bourchier held of the caſtle of Hengham in the reign of Henry VI. It continued in that family till it came to Anne, daughter of Henry Bourchier, the laſt Earl of Eſſex of that line, and wife of William Marquis of Northampton. His marchioneſs enjoyed it till her death, though he forfeited it for aſſerting the right of Lady Jane Grey. She died in 1570. In November 1570 Queen Elizabeth made a grant of this, among other eſtates, to Walter Devereux, Viſcount Hereford and Earl of Eſſex, who was next heir to the Marchioneſs of Northampton. Thomas Aylett, who died in 1607, held this manor and the advowſon of the church. This eſtate was ſpent in the ſervice of King Charles I. In 1670 the manor and advowſon were in Richard Luther, Eſq., who then preſented to the living. Since that time it was purchaſed by one of the family of Barrington, of Hadfield Broad Oak.

The manor of Keers may have been detached formerly from the manor of Aythorp, or probably was one of thoſe held under Geoffrey de Mandeville. The manſion-houſe ſtands about a mile ſouth-eaſt from the church. The firſt mention of it is, that Thomas Aylett held it, in James I.'s time, of Peter Palmer, Eſq. In Charles I.'s time, John Eve had it by the name of Caros. In 1661 Sir John Bar-

rington purchaſed with 600*l.* left by John Gobert, Eſq., and ſettled it upon charitable uſes. The manor is in the Barrington family, and a court is kept there.

The manor of Friar's Grange was ſo called, becauſe it belonged to Tiltey priory. The houſe is about a mile and half ſouth-eaſt from the church. Thomas Eve farmed it of Tiltey priory. Henry VIII. granted it after the ſuppreſſion to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who ſold it in 1538 to Robert Trappes. It afterwards belonged to a family of the name of Stokes, who lived here for ſome generations. One of them alienated it to Edward Dey, a ſhip-carpenter, who ſold it to Jacob Houblon, Eſq., of Great Hallingbury, in whoſe family it remains. Colne priory had alſo ſome lands here. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 722*l.* 1*s.*

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it is ſmall, of one pace with the chancel. A wooden turret, with a ſpire ſhingled, contains three bells. This rectory was a long time appendant to the chief manor, but has been ſeparated from it for ſeveral years. Eudo Dapifer gave the whole tithes of this pariſh to his abbey at Colcheſter; and Alberic De Vere gave to his priory of Earl's Colne the tithes of his demeſne here, and the church, with its appurtenances. Hugh, ſon of Geffrey de Mandeville, took the church from the monks, but afterwards reſtored it, and gave four acres of land to expiate his ſacrilege; this grant, however, did not take effect, for the church continued a rectory ever after. The rectory, which is not diſcharged, is valued in the king's books at 12*l.* per annum.

WHITE RODING.

AS many churches were white when new, this probably gave riſe to the name of this pariſh, particularly as there is no ſoil here white, from which it could be taken. A freeman held part of the pariſh in Edward the Confeſſor's reign; but William the Conqueror had it afterwards as a portion of his royal demeſnes. Some of it was held by Roger de Otburville; and after him the name of no other lord is to be found here till the reign of Henry III. The chief lordſhip here is promiſcuouſly called the manor of White Roding and Merks from an ancient owner. The other manor here is Maſkelſbury.

White Roding Bury ſtands not far from the church. But the houſe, called Merks, is about a mile north of it. In 1226 Walter de Merc held lands in

Blanche Roing, worth 10*l.* per annum, by the ſerjeantcy of keeping the king's falcons. Sir Walter de Merc held in Roing one hundred and eighty acres of arable, &c., and the advowſon of the church. Iſabella, daughter of William de Bynayns, had in 1268 the grant of a market and fair in this pariſh. In 1296 Edward I. granted to John de Merks in tail the manor of White Roding and the advowſon of the church, with remainder to Cecily Haſtings, his ſiſter. She was married to Humphrey de Haſtings, and held this manor, among others, at the time of her death, in 1304. Mary, wife of John Merks, held it for her life; ſhe died in 1329. In the mean time Peter de Cuſance held the manor and advowſon for the life of Mary, wife of Stephen Howell. He died in 1317. Sir William Cuſance preſented to the living in 1322 and 1329. Thomas Longevill, at the time of his death in 1346, held jointly with his wife this manor and advowſon by the ſervice of keeping two falcons for the king's uſe. His widow, Beatrice, remarried Sir William de Queneton, and appears to have brought to him this eſtate. Sir William died in 1374, his wife in 1387. Sir Henry Greene was her heir by virtue of a fine levied: he was ſecond ſon of Sir Henry Greene, of Grenes Norton, in Northamptonſhire; upon Ralph, his ſon, and Catharine, his wife, this eſtate was ſettled. Catharine, after his death, preſented three times to the living. The eſtate then went to Henry, ſon of John, and grandſon of Sir Henry Greene, who had a daughter married to John Stafford, third ſon of the Duke of Buckingham, created Earl of Wiltſhire, to whom ſhe brought this eſtate, and he preſented to the living in 1469. In this family it proceeded no farther; for it came to Humphrey Browne, ſerjeant at law, in right of Anne, his wife, one of the daughters of Sir Henry Vere, of Addington, who was ſon of Iſabella Greene. He alienated the manor of Merks and advowſon of the church. In 1633 John Browne, Eſq., ſold it to Sir Richard Everard. John Le Neve bought it about the year 1686. His ſon ſold it in 1717 to Robert Sumner, Eſq., merchant of London. It now belongs to his heirs.

Colville, now called Covert's Hall, went for ſome time with the manor of White Roding. John Browne, Eſq., held it by the name of White Roding, alias Brown's manor, of the Marquis of Northampton. The Everard family had it after them; and then it came to Mrs. Priſca Coburne, who, by will in 1701, left it to the relief of ſeamen's widows of the pariſh of Stepney; to which purpoſe it is now applied. It was about 110*l.* per annum. The houſe ſtood about three quarters of a mile north-weſt of the church. It was large, but the greater part of it is now pulled down.

The

The manſion-houſe of the manor of Maſkelſbury ſtands about half a mile ſouth-eaſt of the church, and is moated round. This ſeems to have been originally part of what was the manor of White Roding. The preſent name does not occur before the reign of Edward III. The eſtate was once probably in the family of St. Paul. In 1291 Henry de Broke held here one meſſuage, the rent of 250 acres of arable, &c.: he died in 1314, at which time he held more land. It was afterwards in Bartholomew de Freſtling, who alienated it to John de Pickenham, junior, of whom it was purchaſed by Sir John Hende, citizen and clothworker of London, and others. This was about 1370. John Hende, Eſq., died in 1461: his daughter and heireſs brought it in marriage to Walter Writtle, Eſq. John Writtle dying in 1507, it came into the Belknapp family. In 1521 Sir Edward Belknapp dying, his heireſſes were three ſiſters; it was divided among them; it then came to Sir Edward Wootton in 1544, who alienated two parts of this manor to Antony Cooke, Eſq. He was tutor to Edward VI., and had the eſtate at the time of his death in 1576. It next came into the Cotton family. Philip Cotton, Eſq., held it in 1607. Sir John Poyntz, ſon and heir of Sir John Morris, of Chipping Ongar, who married Catharine, daughter and heireſs of Gabriel Poyntz, Eſq., of North Okendon,, and aſſumed the name of Poyntz, had this eſtate at the time of his death in 1618. Sir Robert Abdy, grandfather of the late Sir Robert, one of the repreſentatives in parliament for this county, bought it, and it has ever ſince continued in his family. This rectory is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 26*l.* per annum.

RODING MORELL.

THIS name is derived from an owner, called Morell. It was formerly a diſtinct pariſh, but is now annexed to, and a hamlet in White Roding; but the inhabitants do their ſuit and ſervice to the leet belonging to the hundred of Harlow. In the Confeſſor's reign, Wiſgar and his tenant held it. At the ſurvey, it was held by Richard Fitz-Giſlebert, anceſtor to the Earls of Clare. It was afterwards in the noble family of Stafford, Earls of Stafford. Thomas died in 1392. It continued in the Staffords till 1548. The manor received the name of Cames, or Kemys Hall, from an owner probably of the great family of Camoys. In 1507 Andrew Prior held it of the Duke

of Buckingham. In 1546 John Preſt, Eſq., held it. From the time of Charles I. this eſtate has been in the family of Luther. Richard Luther, Eſq., who died in 1638, held the manor, and it deſcended to the preſent owner of the ſame family.

There are but four farms in this hamlet of Morell, namely, Cames-hall, Walkers, Prow's Farm, and Philpots; they are all ſmall, but Cames-hall is the largeſt.

The ſmall church or chapel belonging to this place was a framed timber building. It is now converted into a pigeon-houſe, and ſtands near Cames-hall. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 848*l.* 3*s.*

The church of White Roding is dedicated to St. Martin, and is a fair building; it may be ſeen from a great diſtance round it, and exceeds in height of ſituation all the other Rodings. It is of one pace with the chancel. A ſquare tower at the weſt end, with a lofty leaded ſpire, contains five bells. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor of White Roding, till it was alienated from it by the Browne family. There are about four acres and an half of land appropriated to this church. Sir Charles Leventhorp was about ſixty-three years rector of the pariſh: he died in 1680. In 1760 Margaretta Maria Weller, widow, preſented to the living; before her, in 1720, Margaret Maryon; and in 1762, John Jones and Margaretta Maria, his wife.

LEADEN, OR PLUMBEA RODING.

THIS pariſh appears to have taken its name on account of the church having been leaded before the reſt: it ſtands eaſtward of White Roding. In the Confeſſor's reign a free woman held it; at the time of the ſurvey it was held by William de Warenne and his tenant. This was part of the thirteen knight's fees which Earl Warenne held in Roings 1211. There is but one manor in the pariſh. The manſion-houſe ſtands a ſhort way north-eaſt of the church. John Earl of Warenne granted this manor, among others, to Edward Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, and Edward II. confirmed it to him in fee in 1314; from which time it became veſted in the Arundel family. It was held of the Earl of Arundel by Sir Hugh Blount, who died in 1361. It was next in the family of Doreward in 1392. This family diſpoſed of the eſtate to ſome of the Waldegrave family, for William Waldegrave in 1538 held the manor. Julian Waldegrave,

Waldegrave, in obedience to a precept from the ſheriff, delivered to John Sherecroft this manor and appurtenances; but it ſoon returned to the Waldegrave family. In 1637 Hugh Everard held it. It was afterwards in Timothy Brand, Eſq., of the Hide in Ingateſtone, in whoſe family it continues. There are ſome other ſmall eſtates here. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 489*l.*

The church is ſmall, of one pace with the chancel, and both are of equal breadth. At the weſt end is a wooden frame, with a ſpire ſhingled, containing three bells. The rectory was given by William de Warenne, afterwards Earl of Surry, to the priory of Caſtleacre, in Norfolk, founded by him in 1085. The advowſon remained in that monaſtery till the ſuppreſſion, when it came to the crown, where it has ever ſince continued. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 12*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum, and is not diſcharged.

MARGARET RODING.

THIS pariſh is ſo called from St. Margaret; to which ſaint this church is dedicated. It ſtands ſouth of Leaden Roding. This is ſuppoſed to have been ſome of the lands in Roding given by Leofwin to the monaſtery of Ely, as above mentioned, under Aythorp Roding. Anſgar and a freeman held this pariſh in Edward the Confeſſor's reign. At the time of the ſurvey it was held by Geffrey de Mandeville, William de Warenne, and their under-tenants. Here are two manors, that of Roding Margaret and Garnetts, and the manor of Marks.

The manor of Roding Margaret and Garnett's-hall has a manſion-houſe ſtanding at the eaſt end of the church. It is called Olives and Garnetts from ſome of its ancient owners, and vulgarly called Garniſh-hall. The noble family of De Vere, Earls of Oxford, held this very early as part of two knight's fees, which they had in the pariſh. Henry Garnett, the under-tenant, from whom it took the name of Garnett's-hall, preſented to the living in 1329 and 1332. In 1268 Robert de Rootinge held under them theſe two fees of the fee of the Biſhop of Ely; John de la Lee in 1350; John de la Lee and Robert Darſham in 1360 and 1371. William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, and William Olive, held them in 1360; John de Bampton in 1371. The reverſion of the manor of Roding Garnett, in which John de Botiller had a life eſtate, was in Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, in 1372.

It appears to have continued longeſt in the family of Legh. Thomas Legh had it in 1390. Giles Legh inherited it, and died in 1538; during which time it had paſſed through this family alone. He left two daughters, married to two brothers; Margaret and Agnes, married to John and Chriſtopher Alleyn. Between them this eſtate was divided in 1539. Chriſtopher and Agnes both died on the ſame day, the firſt of February 1554. In 1672 Giles Alleyn, Eſq., of Haſely, ſold the manor and eſtate to John Godebold, Eſq., of Tenting-hall. It was then about 140*l.* per annum.

The manor of Marks, or Marca's Fee, ſeems to have taken its name from Marcellus, who had it at the time of the ſurvey, or from the family of Merk or Mark above mentioned. The houſe ſtands about half a mile ſouth from the church, partly moated round, and is a good brick building. The manor appears to have been originally a diſtinct pariſh, or at leaſt a chapelry independent of the church, and belonged to Standon Marci. It pays tithes to the rector of Standon. It had formerly a chapel of its own, ſtanding where the barn now is, or near it, but it is now demoliſhed. In the London regiſtry the inſtitutions are recorded. King Henry IV. and Walter Skirlaw, Biſhop of London, ſettled this manor, with appurtenances, in 1403, on Univerſity College, Oxford, which has remained poſſeſſed of it ever ſince. In 1371 Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Eſſex, and Northampton, paſſed this manor to Simon, Biſhop of London, and Richard Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel and Surry, Guy Brian, and others. In 1387 Guy Brian paſſed it to Thomas Arundel, Biſhop of Ely, and to Richard Waldegrave and others. In 1403 Thomas Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and Richard Waldegrave, the truſtees ſurviving, paſſed it over to the king; and in 1403 Joan de Bohun, Counteſs of Hereford, and Richard Waldegrave, quitted their claim to the manor. Henry IV. made it over to the college; Biſhop Skirlaw purchaſed it, and though the king's name was uſed through form, yet he was the real benefactor. This was done to avoid the inquiſition which uſually precedes all mortmains, and that the manor might be held of the king. The eſtate was not more than 200*l.* per annum. There are other eſtates in this pariſh. It is computed that there are about 900 acres of land here. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 555*l.*

The church and chancel are of one pace, both tiled. A wooden turret, with a ſhingled ſpire, contains four bells. The weſtern door has a neat arch indented, ſupported by wreathed pillars. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor

of Roding Margaret, or Garnett's-hall. The abbey and convent of St. Alban's had a portion of tithes in this pariſh, which were compounded afterwards for a penſion of 46*s.* 8*d.*, payable out of Marks. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and is not diſcharged.

RODING BERNERS,

COMMONLY called Berniſh Roding, took its name from Hugh de Berners, who, at the time of the ſurvey, held it under Geffrey de Mandeville, with ſome others. It lies in the moſt ſouthern point of the Rodings in this hundred. It belonged to Ulric in the Confeſſor's reign. There is only one manor here, called Berners-hall. The manſion-houſe is moated round, and ſtands a ſhort way from the church. The Berners family held this eſtate for ſome time under the deſcendants of Geffrey de Mandeville. Ralph Berners held this and others under Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, and, in Edward I.'s reign, encloſed 60 acres of land here within the bounds of the foreſt of Eſſex for the purpoſe of enlarging his park. Sir James Berners was one of King Richard II.'s evil adviſers, and being impriſoned on that account, was executed as a traitor in 1388. His eſtates being confiſcated to the crown, Thomas Archbiſhop of York, and other feoffees, purchaſed this manor and eſtate for the uſe of Thomas of Woodſtock, Duke of Glouceſter. That duke, at the time of his death, held it of Joan Counteſs of Hereford, as of the honour of Mandeville. Of his feoffees it was purchaſed for the ſum of 400*l.* by Richard Torrell, of Little Thorrock. Thomas Torrell, his ſon, held it at the time of his death in 1442 of the king. John, his ſon, had it in 1444, when Sir John Bourchier, Lord Berners, and Margery, his wife, impleaded him for it. But in 1542 a final agreement was made at Weſtminſter-hall between both parties, by which John Bourchier, with his wife, gave up right and claim to the eſtate upon receiving fifty marks of ſilver. In Queen Elizabeth's reign it was in the family of Mordaunt. Philip Mordaunt, who died in 1569, held this manor and appurtenances of the queen of her dutchy of Lancaſter. Leſtrange Mordaunt ſucceeding to the eſtates in 1604, ſold them to Sir Arthur Capel and Sir Edward Capel. It was afterwards in the poſſeſſion of James Thwayts, Eſq. George Barker, ſurgeon, was the next poſſeſſor; and it was lately in Mrs. Judith Thwayts and Mrs. Hanchet, of

Chipping

Chipping Ongar. Roding Berners-hall was then worth above 200*l.* per annum. Asfeldens is a farm held with Torrell's-hall. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 354*l.*

The church is a ſmall building near the hall; a mean wooden turret contains only one bell. The church was given to the monaſtery of St. Leonard, Bromley, near Bow, in Middleſex; the prioreſs and convent of which procured the whole tithes to be appropriated to their uſe, the cure being ſupplied by ſuch a curate as they thought proper to provide, whom they hired at a ſmall ſtipend. It was ſo at the time of the ſuppreſſion, and it has ever ſince continued a curacy or donative. Henry VIII. granted the rectory and tithes in 1540 to Sir Ralph Sadleir, who in 1542 alienated them to Stephen Sumpford. They were for ſome time in the Mordaunts, lords of this manor. But John Waylett, who died in 1587, held this rectory, with the tithes and advowſon of the church. His ſon Robert, at the time of his deceaſe, held a moiety of this impropriate rectory, &c., in 1599. It remained in William and Averius Waylett till 1611, who both poſſeſſed a moiety. The whole was afterwards in Capel. About the beginning of the laſt century John Meade, perfumer in London, had a moiety of it, which he ſold to James Ramſhaw, Gent., of Little Waltham. The other moiety being in two hands, Mr. Ramſhaw bought one part of John Turnidge, of Roxwell, and his father purchaſed the other part of Richard Lake, of Langdon Hills. About the year 1731 Mr. Ramſhaw ſold the whole to Mrs. Jennings, daughter of Lady Moyer.

SHELLOW BOWELLS.

THE name of Shellow appears to be formed of two Saxon words, which ſignify a hedgehog and a hillock. The other name has been given to it by way of diſtinguiſhing it from the Shelley near Ongar, and taken from ſome family. It lies next to the ſouth of Roding Berners, and was formerly much larger than it is now. It was then called Scelga, and comprehended three conſiderable manors, held by Eudo Dapifer and Geffrey de Mandeville; and in the Confeſſor's reign had belonged to Harold and others. Part of it then adjoined to Rodings, the manor of Eudo Dapifer; and was moſt probably curtailed by ſome of the Torrell family, who annexed a great part of it to their adjoining manor of Torrell's-hall. At preſent there

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is but one manor in the pariſh, and the manſion-houſe lies a ſhort way ſouth-weſt of the church. At the earlieſt period it belonged to the family of De Boels; and ſoon after Sir John Sutton appears to have poſſeſſed it; and he gave it to the family of Joſcelyn, of Sawbridgeworth, from whence it received one of its other names, that of Shellow Joſcelyn; for in 1301 Ralph Joſcelyn held one fee and a half. After the year 1338 it came into the Torrell family, which was originally ſeated at Torrell's-hall, in Little Thurrock, where they were of great antiquity. Richard Torrell, at the time of his deceaſe in 1404, held two parts of the manor of Shellows, with the reverſion of the third part of the manor of Shellow Joſcelyn, of John de Bohun, Earl of Hereford. John Joſcelyn in 1525 held the manor and advowſon of the church. The Samford family preſented to the living in 1545 to 1585, and therefore probably poſſeſſed the eſtate; but this is not clearly aſcertained; perſons of the name of Champneys were patrons from 1331 to 1405; Kent, from 1426 to 1453; Clyffe and Brittel, from 1457 to 1523; and yet none of theſe appear to have been poſſeſſed of the manor during that time. In the ſeventeenth century it was in the Wiſeman family of Torrell's-hall, in the adjoining pariſh of Willingale Dou. After that it belonged to —— Foſter and to John Ange, Eſq., who married his widow; then to Richard Marſh, Eſq., of Enfield, and his ſon Thomas, who ſold it to Thomas Bramſton, Eſq., of Skrenes.

The priory of Blackmore had lands here, called Capel, given them by Thomas, ſon of John Joſcelyn. This ſmall pariſh is rated at 216*l.* 1*s.* to the land-tax.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul; but being fallen into decay, was rebuilt by a brief in 1752. The rectory ſeldom went along with the manor, but was in various patrons. The living in the king's book is not diſcharged, and is valued at 36*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

WILLINGALE DOU, or WILLINGHALL.

TWO pariſhes of the name of Willingale terminate the ſouthern extremity of this hundred, diſtinguiſhed from each other by the names of Willingale Dou, and Willingale Spain, from the ancient owners. The name may probably be derived from the Saxon words woollen and hall, denoting the plenty of wool which here abounded. At the time of the ſurvey they appear to have been but one pariſh, the lands being held

here by Sweyn of Eſſex and his tenants. In the Confeſſor's reign theſe lands were held by ſix freemen.

Willinghall Dou is the largeſt of the two pariſhes, ſo called from the ancient family of D'Ou, or D'Eu, and Rokele, from a family of that name. There are in it two manors, that of Willinghall D'Ou, and Torrell's-hall.

Warden's-hall, the manſion-houſe of the firſt manor, is about half a mile ſouth-weſt of the church. The name is ſuppoſed to be corrupted from Wanton's, becauſe William de Wanton, who died in 1347, held jointly with his wife the manor of Willinghall of Maurice de Brune, by the ſervice of a knight's fee. It does not plainly appear who were the poſſeſſors of the eſtate from the Conqueror's time to that of William de Wanton; but it may be reaſonably inferred to have belonged to William D'Ou in the reign of Stephen, and afterwards to a family ſurnamed De Rochelle, or Rokele; then to Bruyn, and others. Sir Thomas Torrell preſented to the living from 1445 to nearly the end of the century, and moſt probably had the manor. This manor was, before it came into the hands of —— Wiſeman, in Mr. Bedle's poſſeſſion; then in Mr. Sampford's; then in Mr. Wiſeman's, ſenior; and after that in Mr. Fytche. In the reign of Elizabeth, in 1587, Thomas Fytche and Agnes, his wife, ſold this manor, with the advowſon of the church, to Nicholas Brocket, of Sawbridgeworth, and Joanne, his wife, with entail to their ſons. The purchaſe was 1800*l.* John Brocket conveyed the premiſes to Geffrey Nightingale, of Newport-pond in this county, and they jointly made them over in 1634 to Robert Cole, Eſq., who died in 1652. In 1733 Robert Cole, Eſq., one of his deſcendants, dying, bequeathed this eſtate to his ſiſter's ſon, Sir John Salter, Knight, Alderman of London, and Lord Mayor in 1740. He rebuilt the manor-houſe of Warden's-hall, and much improved the roads about it. He was alſo a benefactor to the churches of Willinghall, having built large and ſpacious galleries in them both, with other decorations. He died in 1744, and left this eſtate to his wife for life, and then to his only daughter and heireſs, Selina, married to William Milles, Eſq.

The manor of Torrell's-hall appears to have been taken out of Waertons, the capital manor of Willinghall. The manſion-houſe ſtands about a mile north-eaſt of the church. The Torrell family were both here and at Shellow at the ſame time, but firſt at Shellow. In all probability they built here, and removed hither from thence. In 1404 Richard Torrell poſſeſſed it; and it continued in that family till the death of Humphrey Torrell in 1544, who left Anne, his daughter, then only

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two years old, poſſeſſed of the eſtate. She was afterwards married to Henry Joſſelyn, Eſq. He died in 1587, and ſhe in 1589. During her widowhood ſhe held this manor and others. Torrell Joſcelyn, Eſq., ſold this eſtate to Richard Wiſeman, Eſq. He was, as his epitaph ſays, a ſucceſsful merchant, and refuſed the mayoralty of London. He died in 1618, poſſeſſed of conſiderable eſtates here. In 1688 the ſiſter of Sir Richard Wiſeman, Knight, ſold the eſtate to John Brocket, Eſq., of the Middle Temple. His ſon in 1719 ſold it to Charles Blunt, merchant, of London. Some years ſince it was purchaſed by James Rooke, Eſq. Here is a farm, called Aſfelden's, of about 40*l.* per annum, the houſe of which ſtands in Roding Berners; it is ſuppoſed generally to be a corruption of Aſtelins, a ſmall manor in the pariſh, which has uſually been conveyed with Torrell's-hall. There are ſome other eſtates in the pariſh, which is ſaid to contain 1400 acres of land, and is rated at 439*l.* 1*s.*, and Torrell's-hall hamlet at 259*l.* 1*s.*, to the land-tax. In this hamlet are three diſtrict conſtables; one for the townſhip; one for Torrell's-hall hamlet; a third for the hamlet of Bird's-green, part of which is in Roding Beauchamp.

The church is dedicated to St. Chriſtopher, and conſiſts of a body and chancel. At the weſt end is a ſquare tower embattled, containing four bells. The rectory is appendant to the manor of Willingale Dou, or Wardon's-hall. The churches of theſe two Willinghalls ſtand in the ſame church-yard; the reaſon of which is not known. There are ſome rare inſtances of this kind, particularly St. Edmund's Bury in Suffolk, Sopham in Cambridgeſhire, and at Trimnel in Norfolk. The rectory is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 16*l.* per annum.

WILLINGALE SPAIN.

THIS pariſh derives its name from the ancient family of Spain, or De Iſpania, who had Spain's-hall in Great Yeldham and Finchingfield, and who lived at the time of the ſurvey. There are two manors in the pariſh, Willinghall Spain's-hall, and that of Mynchens.

Willinghall Spain's-hall ſtands a ſhort way ſouth-eaſt of the church. In the reign of the Confeſſor, Edeva poſſeſſed this manor; but at the time of the ſurvey it was held by Alan Fergent and his under-tenant, Harvey de Iſpania, by the name of Ulingehala. It was one of the three knight's fees which Alan the Savage gave to Alberic De

Vere; from which it came to the Earls of Oxford. In the reign of Edward I. William de Montchenſy held this manor of the Earl of Oxford. Thomas de Grey held one fee in Willingale under John De Vere, Earl of Oxford, who died in 1358. Roger Fitz-Andrew held two quarters of a knight's fee here under Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, who died in 1372. But the capital manor of Willingale Spain was held at the time by the Spice family. Thomas Spice held it under the Earl of Oxford, and died in 1370; Philippa Spice, his daughter and heireſs, afterwards married to John Forteſcue, Eſq., who by her became poſſeſſed of Falkborn-hall and this manor, with others. It does not appear how this eſtate went out of the Forteſcue family, but it was next in Joan Bradbury, a perſon who is not clearly known; but ſhe appears to have been a ſiſter of Humphrey Spice. She firſt married Thomas Bodley: her ſecond huſband was Thomas Bradbury, Lord Mayor of London. She died in 1530, and her heir was John Bodley: he ſeems to have lived but a ſhort time, for all his eſtates centred in his aunt, Dionyſia Bodley. She married Nicholas Leveſon, Eſq., Sheriff of London in 1534. She died in 1561, holding this manor of the Earl of Oxford, and 400 acres of arable, 40 of meadow, 400 of paſture, 100 of wood, and 5*l.* rent. Thomas Leveſon, her ſecond ſon, was her heir; his grandſon, Sir Richard Leveſon, knight of the bath, ſold this eſtate to Sir Robert Wiſeman, of Torrell's-hall. The eſtate continued ſome time in this family, till it was ſold to John Brocket, Eſq., in whoſe family it remained.

The manor of Mynchens was part of the poſſeſſions of the monaſtery of Clerkenwell; but before that time it belonged to the family of Scroop of Maſham. Stephen le Scroop, who died in 1405, held two tenements here, called Mynges, of the honour of Richmond; and Pelhams, of the caſtle of Anſty. It does not appear when, or by whom, this eſtate was given to the nunnery of Clerkenwell. At the ſuppreſſion it came to the crown, when Henry VIII. gave it to Sir Richard Riche in 1539, it being then called 30 acres of arable, 4 of meadow, and 30 of paſture, in Willingale Spain, and Dou and Fyfield. Richard Lord Riche alienated this meſſuage or tenement to John Waylett, who died in 1567. In 1578 Queen Elizabeth granted a meſſuage, called Mynſons, or Myttons, containing 7 acres of land in this pariſh, to Edward Thomlinſon and Anthony Page. Anne, widow of Anthony Nicolas, remarried to George Price, ſettled in truſtees a capital farm, called Minſins, in this pariſh, in 1683. Since that time it has belonged to Jeremy Shaw, Eſq., of Colcheſter, who ſold it to Mr. John Hammond, of Walthamſtow. There are

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computed to be about 900 acres of land in this pariſh, which is rated to the land-tax at 547*l.*

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew and All Saints; on which account the pariſh is ſometimes called Willingale All Saints. The church is ſmall, and ſtands in the ſame church-yard as the other. It has a ſhingled ſpire. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and is not diſcharged. William de Iſpania, or Spain, gave this church to the priory of St. Laurence at Blackmore. Some time after, a vicarage was ordained by Fulk Baſſet, and the profits of the living divided between the convent and the vicar, who was thenceforth nominated by the Biſhop of London, and preſented by the priory. At length the ordination of the vicarage was annulled, and the profits went to the rector, reſerving to the convent a penſion of 40*s.* a year to pray for William Spain and his relations. This was done in 1398. At the diſſolution the right of preſentation came to the crown; but the nomination remained in the Biſhop of London, and has continued ſo ever ſince.

The Half Hundred of Harlow.

THE half hundred of Harlow, in its greateſt extent from north to ſouth, is about twelve miles long, and from eaſt to weſt about ſix miles broad. It ſtands in a pleaſant and healthy part of the county, and received its name from the chief town in it, that of Harlow. It is bounded on the north by Utlesford, by Waltham on the ſouth, part of the hundreds of Ongar and Dunmow on the eaſt, and its weſtern boundary is the river Stort, which ſeparates it from Hertfordſhire, except at Hide-hall, and ſome lands about Hockerill that are on the eaſtern ſide of that river.

The half hundred appears to have belonged anciently to the noble family of Bohun, Earls of Hereford and Eſſex, and to their ſucceſſors. Humphrey de Bohun, who died in 1372, held it of the king in capite; and ſo did Humphrey Duke of Buckingham in 1458. Probably, upon the attainder of Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, it came to the crown. The Riche family obtained a grant of it afterwards. Richard Lord Riche died poſſeſſed of it in 1566. His ſucceſſors, Earls of Warwick, were ſeiſed of it in fee; and the Earl of Nottingham, who married one of the coheireſſes

coheireſſes of that noble family, enjoyed it by the ſame title. This half hundred and deanery are in the archdeaconry of Middleſex. Within the half hundred of Harlow are eleven pariſhes: Harlow, Latton, Nettleſwell, Roydon, Great Parndon, Little Parndon, Matching, Shering, Hatfield Regis or Broad Oak, Great Hallingbury, and Little Hallingbury.

HARLOW.

THERE are four different Saxon words, from which the firſt ſyllable of this name may be derived, ſignifying hoary, a hare, bigger, and an army; but from which of them it comes, it is not eaſy to determine. The word low, in Saxon, ſignifies a hillock, or riſing ground. The town is 23 miles diſtant from London; it had formerly a market on Saturday, now out of uſe: but it has three conſiderable fairs, on Whitmonday, September 9th, and November 28th, for horſes and cattle. Within its extenſive bounds the following manors are contained: Harlow Bury; the manor of Brent-hall, now New-hall; the manor of Kechin-hall; the manor of Hubert's-hall; that of Moore-hall; and the manor of Weld, or Sewells.

The lands here belonged, in Edward the Confeſſor's reign, to St. Edmund's Bury abbey, and to ſix freemen. At the time of the ſurvey they were held by the ſame abbey, and by ſome other tenants.

Harlow Bury ſtands about half a mile north-north-eaſt from the church. This probably was one of the abbot's inns in his way to parliament, lying near the great road leading from Bury to London. The large chapel, ſtill ſtanding near the houſe, would hardly have been built for the uſe of his tenant ſo near the church. This eſtate was given to the abbey of St. Edmund's Bury by Thurſtan, ſon of Wina, a noble Saxon, in the Confeſſor's reign. The abbot held this manor of the king as part of his barony. It continued in this abbey till the ſuppreſſion, when it came to the crown. King Henry VIII. in 1544 granted this manor of Harlow, with the rectory and advowſon of the vicarage, to Catharine Addington, the widow of a knight of that name, and to Thomas Addington, Eſq.; the latter held the manor, the rectory, and advowſon of the vicarage, a market, and a fair there, with 10 meſſuages, 20 cottages, and 500 acres of arable land, &c., by the twentieth part of a knight's fee, then valued at 60*l.* per annum, at the time of his deceaſe in 1554. It continued in

this family ſome time, till it was purchaſed from them by Francis Lord Guildford, ſecond ſon of Dudley Lord North, of Kirtling, ſolicitor, then attorney general, and lord chief juſtice of the common pleas, and lord keeper, in the reign of Charles II. He died in 1684, and in his poſterity it has continued.

The manor of Brent-hall, now New-hall, was taken from the manor of Harlow Bury; but it is not known whether the lordſhip only or the lands were in the abbot. The houſe was burnt down, and this occaſioned the name of Brent-hall; but New-hall is riſen out of its ruins, and ſtands near the church. There is a wood belonging to it, called Brentwood. David de Fletewyke, who died in 1355, held this manor of John de Infula de Rubo Monte. It was afterwards in the family of Bugge. John Bugge, Eſq., had it in 1442 of the king of his dutchy of Lancaſter. In 1694 it was purchaſed by Henry Lamb, citizen and goldſmith, of London. It is remarkable of this gentleman that he was ſhot at by a highwayman, and the ball lodged in his watch. Of him or his heirs, Robert Cheſter, Eſq., a South-ſea director, purchaſed it; upon whoſe forfeiture it came to the South-ſea company, and was by them ſold. It then came to William Batt, Eſq., of Nunton, near Saliſbury.

The manor of Kechin-hall, has a manſion-houſe is about a mile and half from the church to the ſouth, near Potter's-ſtreet. Pope Boniface IX. appropriated this manor to the maintenance of the abbot's kitchen and table of Harlow Bury, and from thence the name was moſt probably derived. It was not held of the abbot after the reign of Edward III. In 1317 Robert de Haſtings held it; Thomas Longueville in 1346; John Roundall bought it of Robert Webb in 1403. In 1442 John Bugge, Eſq., held it of the Duke of York; of one of his ſucceſſors, it was bought by George Benſon, Eſq., in 1605. William Benſon, who had it in 1644, ſold it to Sir Abraham Reynardſon, Knight. His widow held it in 1663. Mr. Lamb bought it with New-hall; and after him, Mr. Cheſter. The South-ſea company ſold it as the former; and William Batt, Eſq., had it laſt.

Hubert's-hall ſtands about three quarters of a mile ſouth of the church. It was held of the manor of Harlow Bury. The eſtate takes the name from the family of Hubert, one of which, Robert Hubert, of Herlawe, lived in the reign of Edward III. Sir John Shaa, Lord Mayor of London, was the next poſſeſſor in 1501. His ſon had it next in 1532. Alice, his only daughter and heireſs, afterwards brought this and other eſtates in marriage to William Poley, Eſq., of Boxted, in Suffolk. He died

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in 1587, holding this manor of William Addington, Eſq., as of his manor of Harlow Bury. It continued in his ſon, who died in 1593; then in his brother; and afterwards came to the family of Reeve, deſcended from the Reeves of Long Melford, in Suffolk. It continued in them till Robert, whoſe father died in 1639, and mother in 1642, became poſſeſſed of it: he left a ſon, father of —— Wiltſhire, Eſq., whoſe ſon ſold the eſtate to John Brown, Eſq., of Covent-garden. He left it to Colonel John Brown; from whom it came to William Selwyn, Eſq.

The manor of Moore-hall has a manſion-houſe near a mile north-eaſt from the church. Euſtace Earl of Boulogne, and his tenant, held this, in all probability, which belonged to a freeman in the Confeſſor's reign. Under Robert Lord Scales, who died in 1324, Matthew de Wodeham and John Snow held the manor, called then Le Mour-hall, as of his manor of Rewen-hall, by the ſervice of one knight's fee. It came afterwards into the Bugge family. Thomas Bugge, who died in 1458, held the manor of the Duke of Buckingham. The eſtate was purchaſed of this family by the father of Benjamin Henſhaw, Eſq.

The manor of Weld, Sewales, or Sewells. In old records it is called Walda and Wells. The name appears to be derived from the word weald, a wood. The addition of Se might be a contraction of ſouth, and intended to denote South Wood. In the Confeſſor's reign it belonged to Godwin; and at the time of the ſurvey it was held by Ralph, brother of Ilger, and his tenant. There is no account of its ſucceeding owners till the reign of Edward IV., when it belonged to the Colt family, with ſeveral other large eſtates. Joan, widow of Thomas Colt, remarried Sir William Parre, and died in poſſeſſion of it in 1475. The father of Sir Henry Colt, Knight, diſpoſed of the eſtate before his death in 1616. It was afterwards mortgaged to Mrs. Howland, of Streatham; and ſhe having entered upon it, it came to her daughter, Elizabeth, Ducheſs of Bedford; and then to John Duke of Bedford, who ſold it to Thomas Holt, Eſq., of Rochford. It afterwards came to Mr. White, of London. There are ſeveral other eſtates in the pariſh: Harlow Park, Harlow Tye, Old Houſe, Campions, Rouffey Hall, Jacoutts, and Upper Houſe, and other ſmaller ones. Here are alſo ſome benefactions, 20*l.* to the repairs of the church, and 30*l.* to the poor.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and All Saints, is pleaſantly ſituated on riſing ground, and is one of the fineſt and beſt ornamented churches in the county. It was formerly of a cathedral form, with the ſteeple in the middle; but the greater part

part having been accidentally burnt down by fire in 1708, it was rebuilt, or repaired in its preſent form, by the intereſt and direction of the Rev. Mr. Taylor, then vicar, who greatly embelliſhed it with painted glaſs, and other ornaments, at his own expence. Many county gentlemen added their arms in painted glaſs, with which the church and chancel windows are adorned. Mr. Taylor alſo provided an organ in the church, and left a houſe for the organiſt to dwell in, and another, the rent of which he receives. Francis Lord Guildford built a gallery in the church; and Robert Cheſter, Eſq., was at the expence of a curious rail round the font. The tower, which is now at the weſt end, and of brick, has a cupola and lanthorn at the top, leaded.

The church was originally a rectory appendant to the manor of Harlow Bury, and conſequently in the patronage of the abbey of St. Edmund's Bury, which preſented to it as a rectory till about the year 1398, when Pope Boniface appropriated it to the maintenance of the abbot's table; he was then left at liberty to have the cure ſupplied by one of his own monks, or by ſuch a ſecular prieſt as he ſhould appoint: but for the benefit of the pariſhioners, and in obedience to the laws, he condeſcended to have a vicarage ordained and endowed, which was done in 1398. The preſentation to the vicarage from that time continued in the abbot and convent till their diſſolution, when it came to the crown, and was granted to Thomas Addington; but notwithſtanding, the crown preſented to the two next vacancies. From Addington it paſſed to the Right Honourable Lord Guildford, and has been ever ſince in that family. There were formerly two chantries in this church; one founded at the altar of St. Petronilla the Virgin; the other at the altar of St. Thomas, founded by John Stanton, the firſt rector of this church, according to the entry of the London regiſtry. It was endowed with a houſe, out-houſes, &c., 40 acres of land, &c. At the ſuppreſſion it was valued at 9*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*; and in the certificate was ſaid to be a great and populous town, having in it about 400 houſeling people. In 1575 Queen Elizabeth granted a 21 years leaſe of this eſtate to William Calcote, of Lamyate, in Somerſetſhire, Gent., who aſſigned his term in the February following to William Newman, Gent., of Harlow. In 1585 the queen granted another 21 years leaſe to William Hannys, Gent.: this was to take place after Newman's, for Newman in 1591 granted his intereſt to Nicolas Sibley, draper, of Harlow. The rent reſerved to the queen was 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* In 1607 James I. granted this eſtate to Michael Cole and John Rawdon, and their heirs. In 1609 they ſold it to Francis Neve, merchant

taylor, of London; and in 1615 Neve and his wife conveyed it to Alexander Stafford, Gent., of Holborn. He in 1617 enfeoffed ſeveral perſons and their heirs in this chantry eſtate, after his own and his wife's life, for ſuch uſes as he ſhould appoint. Julian, his wife, by her will in 1630, veſted this eſtate in certain truſtees and their heirs upon truſt, that 20*l.* per annum ſhould be equally diſtributed to four poor ſcholars of Catharine Hall in Cambridge, who ſtudy divinity, to be nominated by the maſter of that hall for the time being; and that they ſhould pay 5*l.* apiece to two poor ſcholars of Pembroke College, in Oxford, for ever. Samuel Harriſon, Gent., of Harlow, purchaſed this eſtate, and in his lifetime ſettled it upon his ſon, Richard Harriſon, Gent., attorney at law, who left it to his widow. Mr. Bernard Harriſon had the chantry, and the largeſt part of the eſtate of the late Mr. Richard Harriſon. His three ſiſters, Edward Wiſe, Gent., and the Rev. Samuel Wiſe, had a ſixth part of the farm called Squiers, and the Crown inn and lands belonging to it. This large pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 2743*l.* The vicarage is rated in the king's books at 15*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* per annum, and is not diſcharged.

LATTON.

THE name of this pariſh is formed of late town, denoting a town or pariſh lately erected out of the foreſt. It lies weſt of Harlow, and is very long, extending ſouthward as far as the pariſh of Epping. In the Saxons' times the lands were poſſeſſed by freemen. At the time of the ſurvey they were held of St. Edmund's Bury abbey, by Euſtace Earl of Boulogne and his tenants, and by Peter de Valoignes and his tenants. The part which Bury-abbey had, was converted into a priory afterwards. The part which Euſtace held took its name from his tenant Adelolf de Merc, and made Mark-hall. The part of Peter de Valoignes came by an heireſs into the family of Fitz-Walter, and was in time incorporated into the other eſtates here. In 1165 Ralph de Latton held one knight's fee here, and a quarter of Robert de Valoignes. There are two manors in this pariſh, Latton-hall and Mark-hall.

The manor of Latton-hall belonged to St. Edmund's Bury abbey, and was converted into a priory here, independent of that great abbey; but when and by whom founded is not known. It is ſuppoſed that it had the rents of Harlow Bury till the abbot got them appropriated to his table jointly with this manor; for from that time

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we hear no more of the abbot here. But either under or jointly with the abbot, this manor of Latton, or a moiety of it, and the advowſon of the church, were held by the families of Tany, De Colcheſter, Tyrell, Wery, and eſpecially of Bibbeſworth, from the 27th of Edward III. to the 1ſt of Henry VII. Sir Peter de Tany was ſheriff of Eſſex and Hertfordſhire in the reign of Henry II. Richard de Tany held the manor of Latton of Sir William Comyn, belonging to the honour of Beneton; but it was formerly held of the honour of Boulogne, with a part held by Henry de Mark, and another by the abbot of St. Edmund's, which three parts fell among three ſiſters. Half of the advowſon of the church belonged to this manor, and half to the priory of Latton. Richard Tany was his ſon and heir. From this family the pariſh bore the name of Latton Tany. About the year 1314 Elias, ſon of John de Colcheſter, held the manor of the king. The manor and advowſon were alſo held by Auguſtin le Wallais and Maud, his wife, in 1348. In him the two manors of this pariſh ſeem to be united; for at the time of his death, in 1354, he held the manor of Mark-hall here, with the advowſon of the priory, of the king. His two daughters, Margery, wife of John Malewyn, and Margaret, wife of William Carleton, were his heireſſes.

But in 1353 Thomas de Sakeville had paſſed by a fine a moiety of this manor, and others, to John de Bibbeſworth. This continued in the Bibbeſworth family as far as the year 1485. In the mean time, in 1445, Thomas, ſon and heir of Sir John Tyrell, releaſed to Robert Rolleſton, and others, all his right in the manor of Marks Latton, and the advowſon of the priory; and the next year Gregory Wery releaſed all his right in it to Peter Ardern and his heirs. Thomas Bibbeſworth's heirs, who died in 1485, were Joan, wife of Thomas Barley, and John Cotys. In 1487 John Cotys paid relief for a moiety of this manor, and he and his wife by fine paſſed it to Thomas Sall, William Harper, and others. In 1566 Richard Weſtwood and Margery, his wife, conveyed to James Altham, Eſq., and his wife, lands, &c., in Latton and Harlow. He alſo purchaſed the manor of Mark-hall, and the ſite of Latton priory.

This priory was for canons of the order of St. Auguſtin, and dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt; but it is not known by whom it was founded, nor when, only that it was built before the year 1270. It ſtood on the ſouth ſide of the church, and was a ſtately building, in form of a croſs, with arches and windows of free-ſtone curiouſly done: moſt of it is now ſtanding, but has been converted into a barn. In 1534

John Taylor, the laſt prior, held the ſite of this priory of Thomas Shaa in perpetual alms, with all appurtenances belonging to it, which conſiſted of 200 acres of arable, 200 of paſture, 30 of meadow, 10 of wood, and 3*l.* rent, with the advowſon and patronage of the church of Latton, the whole then valued at 10*l.* per annum. Thoſe lands are ſuppoſed to be what lie three miles ſouth of the church, ſome of them coming up the road which leads from Harlow to Epping. The houſe ſtands half a mile from the road in a ſolitary place, ſurrounded by a moat. The old houſe is down, and a mean farm-houſe is there in its room. There appear to have been very few monks belonging to the priory, for the Biſhop of London often put in a prior for want of a ſufficient number of canons to chooſe a prior according to the ſtatutes. After the ſuppreſſion, Henry VIII. granted the ſite of this priory in 1536 to Sir Henry Parker and his heirs. John Hethe had licence in 1556 to alienate the ſite of this priory to John Tittley, Eſq., who preſented to the church in 1559 and 1561. About that time John Tittley conveyed it to James Altham, Eſq.

Mark-hall is the other manor, which ſtands near the church. In 1275 Alda, daughter of Geffrey Dynant, held in this place of the Counteſs of Liſle, 260 acres of land aſſigned to her as dower. In 1290 Juliana, widow of Henry de Mark, alſo had half a knight's fee here, of the honour of Boulogne, by way of dower. In Edward II.'s reign, Elias, ſon of John of Colcheſter, held it; and Auguſtin le Walleis, in the next reign, and John de Ludewyk, William de Forde, clerk, and John Biſhopſton, clerk.

In 1375 John de Biſhopſton releaſed to William Berland and heirs all his right in the manor of Mark-hall, and the fair of Latton. Ludewyk had alſo the advowſon of the priory. Elizabeth, daughter and heireſs of Sir William Berland, brought this eſtate in marriage to her huſband, John Baud, Eſq. He held it at his death in 1422. Sir John Shaa, who died in 1503, held it, conſiſting of 100 acres of arable, 50 of meadow, 40 of paſture, 30 of wood, with appurtenances, and the advowſon of the church. Edmund Shaa, his ſon, let the manor for 99 years to Henry Parker, Lord Morley, to whom Thomas Shaa ſold it in 1538. His lordſhip in 1562 alienated it to James Altham, Eſq., and his wife; by which means that family became poſſeſſed of almoſt the whole pariſh, which they ſtill enjoy. Edward Altham, Eſq., was deſcended from an ancient family in Lancaſhire, where a manor and town is ſo called: he was ſheriff of London in 1531, and had a ſon, who purchaſed this eſtate. Latton park

park is about two miles ſouth of the church. Here are ſome few other eſtates. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 946*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

The church ſtands pleaſantly on a riſing ground near the hall, and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It is of one pace with the chancel; adjoining to the north ſide is a chapel, dedicated to the Holy Trinity and the Virgin, built by Sir Peter Ardern, ſerjeant at law, chief baron of the Exchequer, and juſtice of the King's Bench, in the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV.: in it he founded a chantry. Brian Rayclouffe in 1476 gave a meſſuage to the chaplain. A confeſſionary is ſtill remaining in the church. A ſquare tower, embattled, at the weſt end, contains four bells. This church was anciently appropriated to the priory of Latton, and a vicarage ordained and endowed, which continued in the gift of that convent till its diſſolution; ſince which time it has gone along with the manor. Sir James Altham ſettled the great tithes of this pariſh upon the vicarage; ſo that it is to be conſidered as a rectory. It is not diſcharged, and is reckoned at the yearly value of 7*l.* in the king's books.

NETTLESWELL.

THIS pariſh is ſouth-ſouth-weſt of Latton, and ſeems to be derived from the two words nettle and well. Nettleſwell, with all its appurtenances and lordſhips, was one of the ſeventeen lordſhips given by Earl Harold, afterwards king, to his great abbey of Waltham, and confirmed to it with the church by King Henry II. and Richard I. No mention is made of it in Domeſday-book. After the diſſolution King Henry VIII. in 1543 granted this manor of Nettleſwell, and Nettleſwell or Bray's-grove, and the advowſon of the church, held of the king in capite, to Richard Higham, Eſq., and his heirs. In 1560 John Higham and his wife, Martha, alienated this eſtate to Sir Richard Weſton, one of the juſtices of the Common Pleas. It continued in this family till Sir William Marten, Knight, had it; he preſented to the living in 1634 and 1640. William Marten, Eſq., who died in 1717, had for wife, Mary, ſiſter of Sir Thomas Croſs, Bart., of Weſtminſter. Having no iſſue by her, he left her this eſtate for life; and after her death, to the firſt ſon of his niece, Anne Lewen, and ſo in tail male for ever, expreſſly ordering, that whoever came to this eſtate ſhould take the ſurname of Marten. For failure of iſſue, he left it to Matthew Bluck, Eſq., of Honſdon. By a codicil to his will, Mr. Marten appointed his truſtees

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to raiſe 500*l.* out of his eſtate, and to lay it out on an eſtate, rent-charge, or fee-farm rent, for a free-ſchool here. By another codicil, inſtead of that 500*l.* he left 1000*l.* for erecting, maintaining, and ſupporting a charity-ſchool in this pariſh. Nettleſwell-ſtreet is a collection of ſcattered houſes in the road from Latton to Parndon. There is a mill over the river Stort, which goes by the name of Burnt-mill, from having been burnt down ſome years ago. It has of late been burnt again. This pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 930*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

The church is ſmall, of one pace with the chancel; at the weſt end is a wooden turret, with a ſhingled ſpire, containing three bells. This rectory in former times belonged to the abbey of Waltham. After the ſuppreſſion it was granted to Higham, with the name of Nettleſwell Bury, that ſtands near it, and has uſually gone with it. In 1716 Richard Sayer, Gent., preſented to the living, and in 1734 William Bedford, Gent. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and is not diſcharged.

ROYDON.

THIS pariſh derives the name from two words, which ſignify a ſweet hill: it is otherwiſe written Reyndon. A part of it ſtands on a hill, commanding the pleaſant meadows watered by the river Stort. It is the weſtern angle of this half hundred towards Hertfordſhire, from which the Stort divides it. On the ſouth is the half hundred of Waltham, into which Roydon hamlet extends. In the reign of the Confeſſor this pariſh belonged to Inguar, a freeman, and five others. At the ſurvey it was held by Ranulf, brother of Ilger; and there was adjoining to it a hamlet, which Richard held of Ranulf. Theſe lands were afterwards divided into four manors; that of Roydon; that of Temple Roydon, or the rectory; the manor of Dounes; and that of Netherhall.

Roydon-hall is about a furlong from the church, at the bottom of the green. From Ranulph's heirs, who, to all appearance, were the Baynards, it came to the noble family of Fitz-Walter, by grant from the crown, upon the felony and forfeiture of William Baynard, in the reign of Henry I. Robert Fitz-Walter held this manor of the king of the honour of Baynard; and in 1285 Edward I. granted him 200*l.* per annum, lands and rents, of this manor and that of Burnham; and in 1290 a charter for a market here every Thurſday, and a fair on the 1ſt and 2d

of

of Auguſt. Robert gave this eſtate and ſeveral tenements to the knights templars; upon whoſe extirpation, in 1311, they were conferred upon the knights hoſpitallers: they enjoyed them till the diſſolution of religious houſes, when this manor of Temple Roydon fell to the crown, and continued in it till May 1602, when Queen Elizabeth granted it to Francis Lord Norrys, and others, with the ſite of the manor, and all the demeſne lands, containing, by eſtimation, 249 acres. In the June following ſhe granted the ſame to Thomas Bellet and Richard Langley; and they alienated in the ſame year to Sir Robert Cecil, afterwards Earl of Saliſbury, the manor and rectory of Temple Roydon and advowſon of the vicarage. He died in poſſeſſion of them in 1612, and they continued in his poſterity till his great-grandſon, James Earl of Saliſbury, ſold them to Sir Joſiah Child, from whom they deſcended to John Earl Tylney.

The manor of the rectory of Temple Roydon paſſed with the manor laſt mentioned. The parſonage-houſe is on the ſame ſide as the church adjoining to the church-yard.

The manor of Dounes was held of the prior of St. John of Jeruſalem. In the reign of Edward III. it appears to have belonged to the Wanton family; next, to one of their deſcendants; and afterwards to Ivo de Harleſton, who died in 1403; he held the manor of Dounes of the prior aforeſaid by fealty and yearly rent of 5*s.* and 1*d.* John was his ſon. In 1466 Henry and Robert Harleſton, his brothers, releaſed all their rights in the manor of Down-hall, with appurtenances, to Sir Robert Danby, Sir Walter Blount, and others. It was afterwards in the Colt family, of which George Colt, Eſq., who died in 1616, held the manor. It lately belonged to Paul Field, Eſq., of Stanſted Bury.

The manor of Netherhall is ſo named from the low ſituation of the houſe, near the confluence of the rivers Lea and Stort, about a mile and a half ſouth-weſt of the church. It is large and old, and was formerly held of Waltham-abbey, which in 1280 purchaſed here 25 acres of arable and 5 of paſture land of Alexander de Alriſcheſey. Thomas, ſon of John Organ, of London, in 1401, conveyed his tenement, called Netherhall, in Roydon and Raſing, to Nicolas Collern and other; and Thomas Prudence, who had it before the gift of John Organ, and Margary, his wife, releaſed in 1407 all his right in the ſame unto Simon Barnewell, of London. It was next in the family of Colt; they made this the place of their reſidence for many years, and ſeveral of them were buried in the church. Thomas Colt, Eſq., lived in the reign

of

of Edward IV., and was by that prince employed in ſome honourable poſt abroad. He died in 1476, and was buried here. It continued in this family a conſiderable time. Sir Henry Colt, Knight, ſold moſt of his eſtates, and George, his ſon, came into a very ſmall inheritance: this was about the year 1635. The eſtate went after that to John Archer, Eſq., of Cooperſale. Cramhornes tenement, and the third part of Baldwin in this pariſh, were held by Richard Heigham. In 1522 the maſter and fellows of Chriſt's college, in Cambridge, are recorded to have had the manor of Roydon; but how they loſt it is not known. Here are alſo ſome other eſtates. Roydon town is rated to the land-tax at 127*l.*, and Roydon hamlet at 75*l.* The vicarage is diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 30*l.* 10*s.* per annum. Here are ſome ſmall donations.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, ſtands in the village, which is a little kind of town. It has a north aiſle, but the chancel is of one pace. At the weſt end is a tower embattled, in which are ſix bells and a clock. The rectory has been mentioned before; as to the vicarage, it was appendant to the manor of Roydon-hall, and in the gift of the knights templars and hoſpitallers; from whom it paſſed to the Earl of Saliſbury and to Earl Tylney. This vicarage was augmented in 1729 with 200*l.* by the Ducheſs Dowager of Marlborough; to which were added 200*l.* of Queen Anne's bounty.

PARNDON.

TO the eaſt of Roydon lie the two pariſhes of Great and Little Parndon. The words may be formed either from the Saxon words pear, paſture, hill; or, a wood, a park; and dun, a hill, or den, a valley. When the two pariſhes were divided firſt, is not known.

GREAT PARNDON.

THIS pariſh is the larger of the two, as the name implies, and comprehends the manor of Great Parndon and Jerounds, and of Catherines, of Paſſmers, and of Canons.

The manor of Great Parndon is what belonged to Earl Euſtace, and afterwards to the Whitſand family. In 1211 William de Whitſand held one fee in Perenden of the honour

honour of Boulogne. His ſon held of the ſame honour 350 acres of arable, 15 of meadow, 7 of paſture, 40 of wood of knights ſervice, and 13*s.* 6*d.* rent of aſſize, and the advowſon of the church; and of the abbey of Byleigh in this village, 24 acres by the rent of 2*s.* 1*d.* per annum; and of the hoſpitallers, 6 acres of arable. He died in 1253. His ſon, Baldwin, held 1 meſſuage, 240 acres of arable, &c. &c. Three daughters were his coheireſſes, who carried their parts of the eſtate and advowſon to their huſbands: Agnes, married to Sir Walter Jeround; Lucia, to ſome perſon not known; Elizabeth, to Tayleferris, of Wynton.

Jeround gave name to the manor of Jerounds or Jerons, corruptly called Garrards. The manſion-houſe ſtands on the north ſide of the church. Walter Jeround died in 1307. Tayleferris, of Wynton, in Wincheſter, died in 1332, holding 120 acres of arable, &c., and the third part of the advowſon of the church. Richard de Nottingham preſented to the living in 1325; and Richard Wincheſter, who died in 1348, held the third part of the manor of Great Parndon of the king; Joan, his widow, enjoyed it after him, and died in 1361; her two daughters and coheireſſes were, Meliora, wife of William Rolfe, and Catherine, wife of John at Church; the latter died in 1396. Rolfe's ſhare moſt probably centered in the Church family, for Robert Church held 240 acres of arable here, half of which were of the king of the honour of Boulogne, and the remainder of the Counteſs of Hereford, and the abbeſs of Byleigh. Joan, his only daughter, was married to Richard Maiſter, who preſented to the church in 1407. The next owner was R. Steward, Gent., who preſented in 1467. It was afterwards in Finch, who had eſtates in Harlow and Stondon. In 1529 Andrew Finch and others alienated this manor and the third part of the advowſon to John Hales, one of the barons of the exchequer. It came afterwards to the crown, but how is not aſcertained. In 1553 Edward VI. granted to the mayor, commons, and city of London, the manor of Gerons, with appurtenances: they preſented in 1571 to the church as governors of the hoſpitals of Bridewell, St. Thomas, and Chriſt's, and have remained ever ſince poſſeſſed of the premiſes.

The manor of Catherines, commonly called the manor of St. Catherines, is the ſhare that Lucia de Whytſand brought to her huſband. The houſe ſtands on the ſouth ſide of the church, and is old. The eſtate took the name from their daughter Katherine de London. It was afterwards given to Waltham-abbey, by whom is not known, unleſs it was by the Rokeſborough family, who were benefactors to that

monaſtery. In 1383 William Rokeſborough held a carucate of land of the honour of Boulogne in Great Parndon. In 1434 Iſabella Rokeſborough, widow, and Walter at Wode, preſented to the living. The abbey preſented in 1452. At the ſuppreſſion it came to the crown, when Henry VIII. granted it by the name of Catherine Paryndonwood, and the third part of the preſentation or advowſon of the church, to Richard Higham, Eſq., and his heirs. He ſold it by licence in 1544 to Andrew Finche, who died in 1563 poſſeſſed of the manor and the third part of the advowſon of the church. His ſon, John, ſold them to Thomas Skipton in 1580. Robert and Simon Adams preſented to the church in 1558; Nathaniel Tracy in 1588; and John Welden in 1645.

The manor of Paſſemers took its name from the Paſſemere family, who were ſettled here in the third year of Henry III.'s reign. Baldwin de Whytſand held lands here then of William de Paſſemere. The houſe ſtands about a mile eaſt from the church, by the ſide of a brook. The greater part of this eſtate has been diſpoſed of; it was ſome time ſince in a family named Naylor; then Mr. Sale, of Wadeſmill, in Hertfordſhire, had it: he ſold it to George Brewer, Gent., who conveyed it to the Rev. Thomas Browne; from him it paſſed by ſale to Mrs. Pink; and from her to Jonathan Numen, Eſq., who died in 1730; and his widow enjoyed it after him; then it deſcended to their daughter and heireſs, Hannah, married to Richard Glover, Eſq., of London.

The manor of Canons is ſo called becauſe it belonged anciently to a monaſtery of canons of the Præmonſtratenſian order, ſtyled the Canons of Perendon, founded, or at leaſt endowed, by Roger and Robert de Perendon, and Clement, ſon of Reginald: theſe canons were removed in 1180 to Byleigh abbey, near Malden, founded by Robert Mantell, and dedicated to St. Nicholas; but though they were ſo removed, this eſtate continued in their poſſeſſion, and was confirmed to them by the charter of Richard I.: they continued poſſeſſed of it till the general diſſolution of monaſteries, when it came to the crown: it was then leaſed for the yearly rent of 16*l.* 4*s.* In 1546 Henry VIII. granted this eſtate to Sir Thomas D'Arcy, gentleman of his bedchamber, in exchange for another; Sir Thomas in 1547 alienated it to John Hanchett and Bridget, his wife. They left an only daughter, Martha, who carried Canons to her huſband, Edward Turner, Eſq. John Hanchett in 1551 ſold ſome parcels of this manor to Reginald Sumpner. Sumpner alienated them in 1565 to Edward Turner, amounting to 114 acres; and in 1568 Turner ſold ſome lands to

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John Fynch: of theſe Canon fields, and of the manor of Canons, alias Parringdon Canons, Sir Edward Altham died poſſeſſed in 1632. The Farmer family had it next, and Sir Edward Farmer reſided here. In the ſeventeenth century Sir Joſiah Child purchaſed it, and it deſcended to Lord Tylney, the late poſſeſſor. There was a magnificent houſe here, built probably with the materials of the monaſtery: it ſtood about a mile north of the church, on the right-hand ſide of the road leading from Harlow to Roydon, in a bottom; great part of it was lately pulled down. There are ſome other eſtates in the pariſh. The two pariſhes of Great and Little Parndon are rated together at 1435*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* to the land-tax. John Ceely, or Sealy, a native of the pariſh, gave 100*l.* to be laid out in the purchaſe of lands or tenements of the yearly value of 5*l.* or more clear, which he ſettled on the parſon and churchwardens of the pariſh for ever, to be diſtributed among the pooreſt inhabitants.

The church is ſituated on a riſing ground, and conſiſts of a body and ſouth aiſle. The chancel is only of one pace, with a veſtry on the north ſide. At the weſt end is a tower ſhingled. The rectory was originally appendant on the manor of Great Parndon. Upon the diviſion of Whytſand's eſtate among his three coheireſſes, it came into three hands, and has continued ſo ever ſince, namely, in the governors of Chriſt's, St. Thomas's, and Bridewell hoſpitals, and two others. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 16*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*, and is not diſcharged.

LITTLE PARNDON.

THIS pariſh is delightfully ſituated near the river Stort. In the Confeſſor's reign it belonged to one freeman. At the time of the ſurvey it was one of the twelve lordſhips which Peter de Valoines held in this county. This was afterwards reckoned a part of the manor of Benington, in Hertfordſhire, which Alexander de Baliol held in right of his wife, Lora, daughter of Peter, grandſon of Peter de Valoines. In the reign of Henry III. Sir John de la Marc was owner of the eſtate; but Alexander Baliol having ſold the eſtate of Benington to John de Benſted in 1284, Little Parndon went along with it. He was juſtice of the Common Pleas and member of Parliament in 1310. Petronilla, his wife, held the eſtate during her life: ſhe died in 1342: ſhe had alſo the advowſon of the church. It continued ſome

time in the family of Benſted, and then came to the Colt family, in which it remained till the ſeventeenth century. About that time it was purchaſed by Arthur Turner, Eſq., of Canons, or his ſon Edward. This family, which is of great antiquity, was originally ſeated at Haverhill, in Suffolk. It continued in this family till the death of Charles Turner, Eſq., in 1726, when the family became extinct, except Sarah, who was grand-daughter of the laſt Sir Edward Turner: her mother was Sarah, Sir Edward's daughter, married to Mr. Francis Gee. Edward Turner, Eſq., of Shillingley Park, in Suſſex, ſecond ſon of Chief Baron Turner, was heir to the family, who then gave his eſtate to this Sarah, who married Mr. Garth, and claimed the reverſion of Parndon. Another perſon claimed it by virtue of a will, made by Sibilla, elder daughter of Charles Turner, Eſq., who bequeathed it to —— Petre, of Ongar, attorney at law, and Thomas Crawford, vintner, of London. They have ſince ſold this manor, with appurtenances, to Edward Parſons, Eſq. The manor-houſe ſtands on the right hand of the road leading from Harlow to Roydon, and is agreeably ſituated. Mr. Thomas Coulſon had alſo an eſtate in the pariſh.

The church, which ſtands near the river Stort, is very ſmall, both church and chancel being of one pace and breadth; the chancel has a north aiſle. A ſmall wooden turret at the weſt end contains one bell. The rectory has been always appendant on the manor. The Benſteds preſented to it from 1334 to 1441, and the Colt family from 1467 to 1565. Thomas Crawford preſented in 1472. The rectory is diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 46*l.* 18*s.* per annum.

MATCHING.

THE Engliſh word match, or the Saxon word which ſignifies even, or equal, does not afford much ground to ſuppoſe that it is derived from either of them: the latter ſyllable in the Saxon language implies a paſture. It is north-eaſt from Harlow, and joins Ongar hundred. In the Confeſſor's reign it belonged to Eſgar and to two freemen. At the time of the ſurvey it was held by Robert Gernon and his undertenant; by Geffrey de Mandeville, whoſe part was Stock-hall; and William de Warenne, who had Oveſham-hall. The manors at preſent in the pariſh are thoſe of Matching-hall, Watermans, Stock-hall, and Oveſham-hall.

The manor of Matching has a manor-houſe, called Matching-hall, which ſtands on the ſouth ſide of the church. This is the eſtate which Gernon had, and was held afterwards of the lords of Stanſted Montfichet. Humphrey de Weleden, who died in 1331, held the manor of John of Lancaſter, lord of Stanſted Montfichet. The noble family of De Vere having acquired the lordſhip of Stanſted, this manor was found to be held of John and Thomas De Vere, Earls of Oxford, who died in 1358 and 1370. John Walden, who died in 1401, had the manor of Matching-hall. John Walden, another, had it in 1419. His ſiſters and coheireſſes next poſſeſſed it; they were Catherine, wife of John Barley, and Margaret, wife of Henry Langley. The inheritance, in all probability, came to Langley, who had it at the time of his death in 1471. In 1517 Catherine Langley, wife of John Marſhall, had it at her death: her daughters and heireſſes were, Eleanor, wife of Henry, ſon of Sir John Cutt, and Mary, wife of John, ſon and heir of Richard Cutt. Henry Cutt, Eſq., died in 1573. It continued ſome time in this family; and at length was purchaſed by the family of Maſham, of whom we have before ſpoken.

Waterman's manor is ſometimes called the manor of Matching, or Matching-green. The houſe which belonged to it ſtood about three quarters of a mile from the church. It is fallen down, and only ſomething of an orchard remaining. There is a place called Waterman's End within a quarter of a mile of Stock-hall. The eſtate was given to Waltham-abbey, but it is not known when or by whom. In 1359, in all probability, John Roberd, of High Rothing, and his heirs, had it; the leaſe was made for 300 years. At the time of the ſuppreſſion the rents of aſſize were 43*s.* 4*d.*, and perquiſites of court 1½*d.* In 1544 Henry VIII. granted this manor to George Clifford and William Welbore. He paid very high for his leaſe. Welbore in 1547 ſold the eſtate to Geffrey Lukyn. In 1554 William Lukyn ſold it to Sir William Petre, and in this family it has continued ever ſince.

The manor of Stock-hall has a manſion-houſe, about a mile ſouth-eaſt of the church near Matching-green. This part was held before the Conqueſt by Eſgar, and at the time of the ſurvey by Geffrey de Mandeville. It holds a court baron. Thomas Battail held one fee in Matching and Great Waltham under Henry de Bohun, Earl of Eſſex, in 1372, which is ſuppoſed to be this eſtate. Margaret Bays had it next; then Thomas Battail in 1453. Robert Brown, of Rookwood-hall, in Abbeſs Roding, Eſq., who died in 1488, held the manor of Stock-hall of Nicholas Barrington of his manor of Matching Barnes. Sir Humphrey Brown in 1553 paſſed

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it by fine to John Lyndeſell and others. Thomas Aylett had it at his death in 1607. Thomas Gittens, who married Suſan, daughter and heireſs of Thomas Aylett, ſold the eſtate to Thomas Bennett, of North Weald. The truſtees of his ſon and daughter ſold it to James Brain, Eſq., in 1707, high ſheriff of the county in 1724. He gave it to his daughter, married to Daniel Quare, Gent.

The manor of Oveſham, commonly called Hounſham-hall. The hall ſtands about a mile and an half weſt from the church. This manor, which is now only one farm, was formerly a hamlet of the pariſh, and a conſiderable part of it. It is bounded by Shering brook, and probably from thence has the name, the Saxon word ſignifying over, or on the bank, and ham meaning a manor-houſe. In the Confeſſor's reign a freeman held this eſtate; and at the ſurvey William de Warenne had it, and his tenant. From the Warenne family it deſcended, by Alice, ſiſter and heireſs of John, laſt Earl of Warenne, to Edmund Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel; and Edward II. in 1314 confirmed it in fee to him; he was beheaded in 1326, and his grandſon in 1397: from this family part of it came through Elizabeth, widow of Thomas Mowbray, then wife of Sir Gerard Uflet, in 1424, to him. John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, had the ſame. Another part of the Earl of Arundel's eſtates had come to William de Beauchamp, Earl of Abergavenny, through Joanna, another ſiſter to Elizabeth. In 1485 John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, falling at Boſworth-field, his eſtates came to the crown, when his ſhare was granted by Henry VII. to William Scott, Eſq., who had alſo the other parts, for he died poſſeſſed of the manor of Oveſham-hall in 1491. It continued in this family till Elizabeth Scott brought it in marriage to Sir Edward Alleyn, Knight, of Hatfield Peverell, created a baronet in 16 29. Sir Edward Alleyn leaving no male iſſue at his death in 1656, it reverted to the collateral male line of Scott, of Chigwell. The hamlet of Oveſham was large; and at a conſiderable diſtance from the church was a chapel, endowed with 20 acres of arable and one of meadow. Some remains of it are ſtill viſible near the hall.

Kingeſtons, an eſtate about three quarters of a mile from the church eaſtward, took its name from the Kingſton family. They held it under the Earls of Oxford in 1358 and 1370. Richard Crampe held it in the reign of Henry VI. by giving at Chriſtmas two ſmall veſſels bound with iron, containing four flaſks of new wine.

Stone-hall

Stone-hall is a ſhort way diſtant from the church. There are a few other lands in this pariſh, which is rated to the land-tax at 1378*l.*

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and conſiſts of a body and two aiſles; the chancel is only of one pace; an embattled tower contains five bells. The church was given by Harvey de Boreham, Dean of St. Paul's, to the priory of Lees. In 1274 the Biſhop of London, John Chiſhull, appropriated the great tithes to that convent, and ordained and endowed a vicarage, reſerving the nomination to himſelf and ſucceſſors, Biſhops of London. After the ſuppreſſion Henry VIII. in 1546 granted the impropriate tithes to Sir Richard Riche. He ſettled them in feoffees for the uſe of his foundation of a free-ſchool at Felſted. The right of preſentation is in the feoffees, but the nomination is in the Biſhop of London. The vicar receives the great tithes on the eaſt ſide of the highway leading from Ongar to Stortford. He had a compoſition for the ſmall tithes from Matching Barnes. Part of the Hatfield farm was in Matching Barnes, though the whole may have been taken by Hatfield pariſh. A houſe on Matching-green, with ſome land belonging to it, about 8*l.* a year, were given for the repairs of the church. A houſe very near the churchyard was built by a perſon of the name of Chimney, and was deſigned for the entertainment of the poor people at their weddings. It appears to be very ancient, though ruinous. The vicarage is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 12*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* per annum.

SHERING.

THE name of this pariſh is probably derived from the Saxon word, ſignifying ſhire or county. Peter de Valoines poſſeſſed it in the reign of the Conqueror: it had belonged to three freemen in the Confeſſor's reign.

Shering-hall, which belonged to De Valoines, ſtands about a mile ſouth-weſt of the church. De Valoines married the ſiſter of Eudo Dapifer. Robert Fitz-Walter, by marriage with this family, came into the eſtate. It continued in this family till 1432, when it came to the Radcliffes by Elizabeth, eldeſt daughter of Walter Lord Fitz-Walter. Of the Radcliffes, Robert was created a viſcount in 1525, and Earl of Suſſex in 1529, the laſt heir male of this family in the direct line. Robert Earl of Suſſex ſold this eſtate, with the advowſon of the church, to Lionel Cranfield, Earl of Middleſex. He in a ſhort time alienated it to Thomas Hewett, Eſq., in 1635: he

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was created a baronet in 1660. His ſon was created a viſcount, and dying without iſſue divided his eſtates between his four ſiſters: Elizabeth, wife of Sir Richard Anderſon, Bart.; Margaret, wife of Sir Edward Farmer, Knight, of Little Parndon; Arabella, widow of Sir William Wiſeman, Bart., of Great Cranfield; and Mary, widow of Sir Charles Crofts Read, Knight. The eſtate was ſold, and was a ſhort time in the poſſeſſion of Lady Filmer, deſcended from Sir William Beverſham. Of her it was purchaſed in 1723, with two farms, for the ſum of 11,325*l.* by Robert Cheſter, Eſq., of the South-ſea Company, a director: upon whoſe forfeiture the South-ſea Company ſold it to Samuel Feake, Eſq., who built a ſeat here, having turned the great road.

The manor of Cowick Bury, now called Quick Bury, or Cowick Barns, is about a mile north-weſt of the church. Another houſe, called Cowicks, is about a mile and a quarter north-north-weſt of the church. In Domeſday-book here was a manor, called Cinca, which was this: William de Warenne was lord of it at the ſurvey; and Robert Guett, a brother of a Counteſs de Warenne, gave it to Bermondſey-abbey in 1098, and the lands held afterwards of Houſham-hall, which was Warenne's. In the Confeſſor's reign it belonged to Aluin Godrun, and at the time of the ſurvey to William de Warenne and his tenant. A wick of cows is a common expreſſion in this county, and from this it had the name. After the ſuppreſſion Henry VIII. in 1540 granted it for the ſum of 314*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* to Thomas Joſſlyn, Eſq., of New-hall, in High Roding, and his heirs. In 1556 he paſſed it to Robert Hurſt, Gent. It continued in the Hurſt family till it came to David Pettyt, Eſq., of Wanſted, who, dying in 1746, left the eſtate by will to George Lord Carpenter, who had married his only daughter. His lordſhip died in 1749, and was ſucceeded by his ſon. There are a few other ſmall eſtates in the pariſh. It is rated to the land-tax at 1173*l.*

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is ſituated on riſing ground; both church and chancel are of the ſame pace and width. On the north ſide of the chancel is a large veſtry. The church is leaded, and the chancel tiled. A ſquare tower at the weſt end contains four bells. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor of Shering-hall, and in the gift of the noble families of Fitz-Walter, Radcliffe, Hewitt, &c. Lady Arabella Wiſeman ſold the advowſon to a gentleman, who intended it for his ſon: of him it was purchaſed with money left by Biſhop Fell to Chriſt Church College, Oxford, and has been ever ſince in that ſeminary of learning.

learning. A houſe near the church was given for the repairs of the church. In the pariſh, about a quarter of a mile from the church, ſtood formerly a free chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas, founded about the year 1278 by Chriſtiana de Valoines. She endowed it to the amount of 11*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum for the maintenance of two chaplains. The patronage of it was in the lords of the manor. In 1322 the chaplain, Thomas de Shympling, was preſented by Sir Thomas Lovyer. At the diſſolution of chantries it was valued at 42*s.* per annum. The place where this chapel ſtood, ſeems to be a narrow ſlip on the north ſide of the road leading towards Netherton, where is a field called Chapel-field, and ruins of buildings have been diſcovered. The road through this pariſh from Harlow to Hatfield is remarkably level and pleaſant. The rectory, which is not diſcharged, is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum.

HATFIELD REGIS, OR BRADOKE.

THIS name is derived from the Saxon word, which implies a heathy or uncultivated field. It is diſtinguiſhed from Hatfield Peverell by the additions of Regis and Broad Oak. The name of Regis ſeems to have been given to it at the Conqueſt, becauſe it was the king's demeſne; that of Bradoke, from a tree of conſiderable ſize which grew here in the Saxons' time. There has been another ſince, which covered a large ſpace of ground; the remains of it appear to be ſome hundred years old: it was called the Doodle Oak; it grew on the foreſt near Stane-ſtreet, and appears as if freſh branches grew out of the roots as the others decayed.

This pariſh is ſituated on the north-eaſt part of the hundred, joining the Rodings and Canfields. It is of great extent, and was the moſt conſiderable in the half hundred, if we may judge of the rent which it brought to the ſheriff after the Conqueſt, or if we look at the remains of buildings and foundations for half a mile by the road leading towards Shering and Harlow. This was called Holſted-hill, corrupted from Old Street hill. The return of the chantries in the reign of Edward VI. makes it a very great and populous town, having, by eſtimation, five hundred inhabitants or houſeling people. There was a conſiderable market here; and the town made ſuch a conſpicuous figure on the map, that a company of ſoldiers have been frequently quartered here, upon a march, who, to their diſappointment, found only three ale-

houſes, and thoſe very mean. There is little trade, as the place is no great thoroughfare. Here is a fair on the 5th of Auguſt, where the county is ſupplied with their ſtock of lambs from Norfolk. This noble lordſhip being royal demeſnes, belonged in the Confeſſor's reign to Earl Harold, afterwards his ſucceſſor to the throne. It was in the hands of the Conqueror at the ſurvey. In this extenſive pariſh are the following manors: Hatfield-bury, on which the following are dependant; Barrington-hall, Bromeſho-bury, Matching Barnes, Riſe Marſhes, and the Lea.

Hatfield-bury, the capital manor, remained in the crown till the reign of Henry III. He granted in 1217 this manor to William de Caſſingham for his ſupport in the king's ſervice. But the tithes of the manor were granted by Henry I. to the priory of St. Botolph's abbey in Colcheſter. In 1237 Henry III. granted this and Writtle to Iſabella, ſiſter and coheireſs of John Earl of Cheſter, and wife of Robert Brus, Earl of Annandale; it continued in this family till Robert Brus ſtrenuouſly aſſerting his right to the crown of Scotland, was deprived by Edward I. of this and all his other eſtates. This manor remained in the crown till Edward II. gave it to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, and to his wife Elizabeth, ſeventh daughter of Edward I. But Richard de Waleys, who died in 1330, held the third part of the manor of the king. From the Bohuns it came to Thomas de Wodeſtock, Duke of Glouceſter; by marriage he enjoyed it till 1397, when his eſtates were confiſcated. He had two daughters, Anne and Iſabel; Anne, married to the Earl of Stafford, ſlain at Shrewſbury in 1403. In 1421 a partition of the eſtates of Humphrey, laſt Earl of Hereford and Eſſex, being made between King Henry and Anne; the latter had for her ſhare the manor of Hatfield, then valued at 81*l.* 4*s.* 7½*d.* per annum; a foreſt, a park, and ſeven woods: her ſon, Humphrey Stafford, then poſſeſſed it: in them it continued till Wolſey procured the death of Edward Stafford, when it came to the crown. In 1547 Edward VI. granted it to Sir Richard Riche, Lord Riche, and his heirs. It continued in this family till the failure of male iſſue, by the death of Charles Lord Riche, Earl of Warwick, in 1673. The eſtates were afterwards divided among the ſeveral coheirs. Sir Charles Barrington, in right of his mother, Ann, daughter of Robert Riche, third Earl of Warwick, had this manor of Hatfield Broad Oak, with appurtenances.

Barrington-hall ſtands about a mile and a half north of the church, and was the ancient ſeat of the Barrington family; but moſt of it is pulled down, and only a farm-houſe

farm-houſe remaining. The manor of Barrington has been all along in that family upon record. They either gave name to, or took their name from the pariſh of Barrington, in Cambridgeſhire. The firſt mentioned in their pedigree is Sir Odonel de Barynton, Baron of Wegon, deſcended from a Barenton, who ſerved Emma, Queen of King Ethelred, father of Edward the Confeſſor, and had the cuſtody of Hatfield foreſt. He was deprived of his poſſeſſions at the Conqueſt; but his ſon being ſervant to Henry I., obtained from him the cuſtody of the foreſt, &c. This very ancient family has continued in poſſeſſion of this eſtate ever ſince. Sir Charles Barrington, who died in 1715, left it to his ſiſter Anne, wife of Charles Shales, Eſq., for life, and to her children after her. Upon her death the eldeſt ſon, Riche Barrington Shales, Eſq., ſucceeded; and at his death, John Barrington Shales, Eſq.

The priory is part of the Barrington eſtate in this pariſh, and was for a conſiderable time their ſeat. It ſtood at the eaſt end of the church, and was a large timber building, but has been ſome time demoliſhed, and the ſite of it converted into gardens. It was founded in 1135 by Alberic De Vere, ſecond of the name, and father to Alberic, firſt Earl of Oxford, for black monks. He dedicated it to God, St. Mary, and St. Melanius Redonenſis. This Melanius was a Britiſh ſaint, to whom a famous abbey was dedicated at Rennes in Bretagne. The founder probably made it a cell to that foreign abbey. But Alberic the third, or his ſon Robert, who was buried in it, might increaſe the revenues, and make it an independent priory. The founder endowed it with lands in this pariſh. They had alſo a manor here, called the Priors, with demeſnes, and part of the tithes of this pariſh, beſides the rectories or impropriate tithes of many places. The whole revenues of this priory were valued at the ſuppreſſion at 157*l.* 3*s.* 2½*d.* The number of monks in it were nine. The patronage was all along in the noble family of De Vere, Earls of Oxford: but they did not obtain it at the diſſolution, as they did moſt of the other things of their foundation: for the ſite and revenues of this were granted by Henry VIII. and Queen Mary to Thomas Noke, who died poſſeſſed of them in 1559. Robert Noke, his ſon, had licence in 1564 to ſell them to Thomas Barrington, Eſq. The family then quitted Barrington-hall, and removed here, making it the place of their reſidence till ſome part of the laſt century. In Charles Barrington's time it was taken down by the workmen contrary to his orders; after which he came and lived in a ſmall houſe of Sir Richard Everard's at Great Waltham. His ſucceſſor, Charles Shales, Eſq., repaired a houſe almoſt againſt the ſite of the priory. His ſon, John Barrington Shales, has built an elegant houſe

north of the ſite of the priory, and encloſed it in a park. Barrington's fee took its name from Sir William de Barenton, and formerly belonged to a family named Blamſter.

Bromeſho-bury ſignifies Broom-hill capital manſion. It ſtands about a mile eaſt of the church near High Roding. It is a hamlet belonging to the pariſh, and was for many years included in the capital manor of Hatfield. In 1303 it was poſſeſſed by Robert de Brus, who reſided there. Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, held it at the time of his death in 1460. It attended the fate of that unfortunate family, and fell to the crown. In 1544 Henry VIII. granted it, with ſome land, to Thomas Joſſelyn. Edward VI. made a grant of it afterwards to Sir Richard Riche. But this grant was void; for the Joſſelyn family remained in poſſeſſion of it, and ſtill continued. This old ſeat is moated round, as the caſtles and caſtellated manſions were of moſt lords of the manors, on purpoſe to receive and ſecure tenants' cattle, upon an enemy's approach, till the beacons could be fired and the country raiſed.

The manor of Ballingtons and Riſe. This is now generally called the Rye, and the manſion-houſe is about a mile weſt-north-weſt from the church. Riſe or Riſes Marſes has for ſome time gone with Ballingtons, which lies nearer to the foreſt gate; theſe together are called a manor, though held of the great manor of Hatfield. The name of Marſes ſeems to come from Ralph de Marci, who held lands here at the ſurvey. Theſe are the two parcels entered in Domeſday-book, under the names of Belindune and Siriceſlea. In the Confeſſor's reign the former belonged to Aluric, and Siriceſlea to Harold. At the time of the ſurvey Peter de Valoines held them; after that the owners are not known. Edward More and Ralph Morrice recovered theſe manors againſt William Towſe and Roger Marfield. Richard Francke, Eſq., Sheriff of Eſſex in 1602, held them of Sir Francis Barrington. Sir Leventhorp Francke, Knight, ſold this eſtate to Benjamin Woodroffe, D. D.: of his heirs Geffrey Stane, Eſq., purchaſed it, and improved the houſe by gardens and out-houſes into a very convenient ſeat: it was built after the manner of Piſhobury and Hamels, in Hertfordſhire, by Inigo Jones, but is ſomething leſs than either of them. Mr. Stane had only one daughter, married to Richard Chamberlayne, Eſq., Sheriff of Eſſex in 1721, on whoſe ſon, Stane Chamberlayne, he ſettled the eſtate.

The Lea ſtands about a mile and half ſouth-weſt of the church. It is reaſonably ſuppoſed to be what in Domeſday-book is called Bineſlea, from whence the name of Lea came; it was then held by Peter de Valoines, but had belonged in the Confeſſor's

feſſor's reign to Uluuin: it is a reputed manor, dependant on that of Hatfield. There is no account of its owners till the reign of Edward IV. Thomas Urſwick, who died in 1479, held a meſſuage called Le Lee, or Lee Hall, 240 acres of arable, 18 of meadow, 37 of paſture, 12 of wood, and 50*l.* rent in the pariſhes of Hatfield Regis, Hallingbury, and Matching, of the Ducheſs of Buckingham. The eſtate appears at one time to have gone with Riſe and Ballingtons. Some years ſince the Lea was in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Davenport. He left it to his grandſon, Mr. Charles Hoy, who ſold it to Geffrey Stane, Eſq., and it was ſettled with Riſe on his grandſon, Stane Chamberlayne, Eſq.

Downe-hall is almoſt three miles weſt of the church, and is ſo named from the Saxon word, ſignifying hill. It is delightfully ſituated on riſing ground above the ſtream that runs through Hatfield town, having a fine proſpect over the adjacent country. Some of the lands within it are belonging to the manor of Oveſham-hall, and held of it by copy of court roll. This is with great reaſon ſuppoſed to be what in Domeſday-book is called Belcamp, and had belonged in the Confeſſor's reign to Uluuin. At the ſurvey it belonged to Alberic De Vere, whoſe ſucceſſor made it part of the endowment of Hatfield priory. In the account of its revenues, a ſhort time before the ſuppreſſion, the farm of Downe-hall was let for 6*l.* a year. In 1540 Downe-hall was granted by Henry VIII. to William Berners, Walter Farre, and William Glaſſcock. Farre alienated his part to Glaſſcock. He died in 1579. By marriage this ſhare came to John Ballett, Eſq. Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, purchaſed the eſtate of John Ballet, Eſq., and gave it for life to Matthew Prior, the poet. After his death, in 1721, the Earl improved it much by plantations, and cutting viſtas through a wood near it, and ſometimes made it a place of his retirement. It was ſome years ago purchaſed by William Selwyn, Eſq.

The manor of Matching Barnes, with Brent-hall, lies upon the borders of Matching, about three miles ſouth of the church. It was held in the Confeſſor's time by Godric, a freeman. At the ſurvey it belonged to the priory of St. Valery, and was called Machekes. The lands belonging to this priory alien were granted away by Henry VIII. after the ſuppreſſion. Nicholas Barrington is the firſt perſon found in poſſeſſion of it afterwards in 1488. It deſcended with the reſt in the Barrington family. It was doubtful whether this manor was entirely in Hatfield, or partly in Matching.

Lancaſters is a farm, the houſe of which is ſituated about a mile and a quarter

ſouth

ſouth from the church; and belongs alſo to John Barrington, Eſq. It took the name from a family, ſurnamed Lancaſter, who were here in the reign of Henry VI.

Branktrees, about three quarters of a mile north-eaſt from the church, was alſo denominated from a family of this ſurname, an heireſs of which brought it to the Joſſelyns of Hide-hall. It has no court kept.

Hatfield foreſt, chace, and park; Bennington-green, Buſhy-end, Broadgates, Waters, Perſe, William, Skringills, and Friers, are alſo eſtates here.

The foreſt and chace formed anciently part of the king's demeſnes, who granted the cuſtody of them to ſome of the Barringtons. The whole contains above 2000 acres of land. Here are ſome cuſtoms between the Barringtons and Houblons in this foreſt. Some charitable donations here are given to the poor in lands, amounting to about 19*l.* per annum, to the church about 41*l.* Here are five alms-houſes. John Gobert, Eſq., of Coventry, by will in 1623 gave 600*l.* to be diſpoſed in exhibitions: for two ſcholars at Oxford and Cambridge of 8*l.* a year each, to the poor of South Kelworth 2*l.* per annum, to the poor of Somerley in Leiceſterſhire 2*l.*, and to the poor of Hatfield Broad Oak 4*l.* per annum; the reſidue to be diſtributed among poor preaching miniſters, and to their widows and children. The manor of Keers, in Aythorp Roding, was purchaſed with this money, and ſettled for the uſes appointed. The farm of Branktrees in this pariſh was purchaſed by Mr. Samuel Lowe, rector of High Laver, who died in 1709, being 89*l.* a year. and ſettled for ever on the corporation of the ſons of the clergy, and ſociety for propagating religion in America.

The church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is ſituated in a conſpicuous part of the pariſh, to which the priory adjoined. It is a very handſome lofty building, having a ſteeple of ſtone at the weſt end, with a peal of ſix bells. The church has a ſouth aiſle, the chancel a ſouth and north aiſle, with a veſtry on each ſide: it is the beſt wainſcotted church in the county, for the ſupport of which lands are given by various perſons. The tithes of the capital manor, or royal lordſhip, in this pariſh, were given by Henry I. to the priory of St. Botolph, in Colcheſter. Alberic De Vere gave to his foundation here all the tithes which he had in the pariſh. The monks being willing to claim more than they were poſſeſſed of, and diſputing with the priory of Hatfield, they came to the agreement, that all the tithes of the king's lordſhip, and other places in the pariſh, ſhould be aſſigned perpetually to the prior and convent of Hatfield Regis and their ſucceſſors, they paying to the prior and convent

of St. Botolph and their ſucceſſors the yearly ſum of 3*l.* in lieu of tithes. The compoſition was confirmed by Biſhop Stokeſley in 1532. The prior and convent here having the great tithes appropriated to them, ſupplied the cure by their own members till a vicarage was ordained. After the ſuppreſſion in 1546 Henry VIII. granted to the maſter, fellows, and ſcholars of Trinity College, Cambridge, of his foundation, this rectory and church of Hatfield, with appurtenances: for the beſt part of an hundred years it was ſo ſmall that it was not worth the preſentation and inſtitution, but went by way of ſequeſtration; the neat profits of it being only 6*l.* per annum, beſides the ſurplice fees. Towards the end of the ſeventeenth century Dr. Montague, maſter of Trinity College, and the fellows, upon granting a new leaſe to the rectory, made an augmentation to the vicarage of 24*l.* per annum. There being no vicarage-houſe in the time of Sir Charles Barrington, a houſe belonging to Sir Charles having a ſmall ſpot of garden, anciently belonging to the vicar, was by Sir Charles given to Mr. Stirling, then vicar. Upon this Mr. Stirling laid out 150*l.*, but neglecting to get a ſettlement made, upon the death of the donor nothing of a conveyance appeared. A chantry was founded in this church by Walter Percival and Robert Hanbury. The ſite of it was in Bread-ſtreet, leading to High Roding. At the ſuppreſſion of chantries it was valued at 7*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* It was endowed with a meſſuage and other lands in the pariſh, which have ſince been variouſly diſperſed. This large town and pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 4419*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* In 1568 Queen Elizabeth granted a tenement, called the Guild-houſe, to Edward Grimſton and William Le Grys, and in 1571 to Richard Hill and William Jones. The rectory is diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 47*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*

LITTLE HALLINGBURY.

THIS pariſh lies ſouth of another in this hundred, called Great Hallingbury, and is alſo called Hallingbury Nevill and Hallingbury Bourchier, from the two noble families who were in poſſeſſion of it ſome time. In the Confeſſor's reign it belonged to freemen. At the time of the ſurvey it belonged to Geffrey de Mandeville. There are two manors in this pariſh, Little Hallingbury-hall and Monkbury.

Little Hallingbury-hall ſtands about a mile ſouth-eaſt from the church. Sweyn had it, and after him his deſcendant Henry de Eſſex, who forfeited his eſtates on account

account of his cowardice in the battle with the Welch in 1163. Henry II. then gave the manor to Henry de Cornhill, who had a park at Hallingbury. His daughter and heireſs brought it in marriage to Hugh de Neville, who died in 1222. In 1372 from this family it came to Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Eſſex; it after that paſſed, like the other eſtates, to Thomas of Woodſtock, Duke of Glouceſter. The eſtates were afterwards divided between Henry V. and the Counteſs of Stafford. This fell to her ſhare, and was valued at 27*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum. Henry Bourchier, Earl of Eſſex, had it from her. Anne, a deſcendant, married in 1541 Sir William Parr, Marquis of Kendal, created afterwards Earl of Eſſex and Marquis of Northampton; ſhe died in 1570: at her death this eſtate was deſcribed as 20 meſſuages, 10 cottages, 20 gardens, 20 orchards, a park, water-mill, 1000 acres of arable, 100 of meadow, 500 of paſture, 60 of heath and furze, 10 of wood, and 40*s.* rent in this pariſh of Hatfield Broad Oak, and the advowſon of the church. Sir Walter Devereux was her heir; he was Lord Ferrars of Chartley, and Earl of Eſſex afterwards. Robert Devereux, his ſon and heir, the unfortunate Earl of Eſſex, was beheaded in 1602; but ſeveral years before, in 1588, he, with Richard Broughton and Thomas Crompton, Eſqrs., alienated this manor of Hallingbury Bourchier and the advowſon of the church to William Bawtree, Gent.; Robert Aſke, citizen and goldſmith, of London; and John Wright, Gent. Theſe three truſtees, by licence, alienated the eſtate to Thomas Sutton, Eſq., who ſettled it upon his foundation of the Charter-houſe, London. His firſt intention was to build his hoſpital here; but he very properly altered it, and fixed it where it is. Little Hallingbury then was valued at leaſehold rents 267*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, free and cuſtomary 10*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* The rector and other land-owners maintain their fences againſt the lord.

Monkbury, a ſhort diſtance from the church, appears to be the manor which Eſgar poſſeſſed in Edward the Confeſſor's reign, and was held at the ſurvey by Geffrey de Mandeville and his tenants. The mill, which was divided here between the lord of the manor and Geffrey de Mandeville, ſtood very probably where the ſilk-mill now is, near which the lands of Sutton's hoſpital, and thoſe formerly belonging to Bermondſey monaſtery, join. Martel, tenant to Mandeville, gave this manor, with his conſent, to the Bermondſey monks, in Southwark. Since the diſſolution theſe lands have been divided into ſeveral different hands. Monkbury belonged to the Rev. Robert Taylor, who died in 1719: he gave it and other lands to

William Taylor, Gent., of Hadham. There are a few other ſmall eſtates here. The pariſh is rated to the land-tax at 636*l.* A mill has been lately employed here in twiſting and winding ſilk, invented by Mr. William Alderſey. It was built upon the model of the engine at Derby. Near the church are houſes for three dwellers, deſigned at firſt for the entertainment of perſons when married, either for dinner or ſupper.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is of one pace with the chancel. A ſquare tower, with a ſpire ſhingled, contains three bells. The rectory has been always appendant to the manor. It is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 15*l.* per annum.

Hallingbury-place is a ſpacious edifice, ſituated on an eminence in an extenſive park, and now the ſeat of John Houblon, Eſq. The grounds have been much improved, and the whole rendered a deſirable reſidence. The manor was purchaſed by the Houblon family in the year 1727, under an act of parliament which veſted the manors of Great Hallingbury, Wallbury, and Monkbury, in truſtees for the diſcharge of the debts of Sir Edward Turner, the late poſſeſſor of them.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

Broghin or Braughing Hundred.

THIS hundred contains thirteen parifhes and hamlets, divided between two high conftables; one has the divifion of Bifhop's Stortford, Thorley, Sawbridgeworth, Golfton, Eaftwick, Stanfted, Hodefden, and Wideford; the other has the towns of Ware, Thunderidge, Standon, Puckeridge, Braughing, and Weftmill.

The hundred is bounded on the north by Edwintre hundred, on the weft by part of Broadwater hundred and that of Hartford, on the eaft by part of Clavering and Harlow, and on the fouth by the hundred of Waltham and that of Hartford. It is fituated on the river Rib, about a mile diftant to the north from Standon: it was called Brooking in the Saxons' time from the river and meadows there; but in the time of the Conqueft it was called Brackinges.

BRAUGHING.

IN the Saxons' time Euftace Earl of Boulogne held in this hundred the manor of Brachings; it was then worth 16*l.* per annum: two thanes held it at the time of the Confeffor, when it was worth 20*l.* Earl Euftace having joined with Odo Bifhop of Bayeux to deftroy William Rufus, his eftates were forfeited, and this among the reft; his eyes were put out, and his members cut off. Thus the manor came to the crown. King Stephen out of it granted to the canons of the Holy Trinity in London 5*l.* worth of land of this eftate; he alfo granted a market here. Queen Maud confirmed it to them, with the grant of 5*l.*, and added 6*l.* more, which is that part on which this church is built, and to which the market belongs. Henry III. confirmed thefe lands to the church of the Holy Trinity. The eftate continued in this priory till the diffolution, when Henry VIII. feized it. That king granted it, with the appurtenances and tithes which belonged to the rectory, and the advowfon of the vicarage of the parifh church of Braughing and appurtenances, excepting the manor of Berkefdon, which belonged to the priory, to Thomas Lord Audley, Sir Henry Parker, and Sir

Thomas Barnardiſton, Knights, and others. From Lord Audley this manor came to Thomas Duke of Norfolk, in right of Margaret his wife. Thomas Lord Howard ſold it to John Steward, Eſq.; on the death of Humphrey Steward, one moiety of it came to his ſon, who was member of parliament for Chriſt Church in Charles II.'s time; and he ſold it to William Delawood, merchant, of London: the other moiety, which Francis Steward held, came to his ſon; and at his death it was ſold to William Delawood, who, at his deceaſe, gave it to Sir James Houblon, in whoſe family it remains. The vicarage of Braughing is not diſcharged, and is valued in the king's books at 19*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum. The church is a handſome building.

The manor of Gateſbury, Uphall, and Maſters. The manor of Gateſbury was in the poſſeſſion of John de Gateſbury; he gave to the church of St. John the Baptiſt, of Holywell, in London, this manor, and the land called Gateſbury Frid; and Jordaine de Zuine, the lord of whom he held it, confirmed the grant. It was in this family in Henry V.'s reign, when the eldeſt daughter of John de Gateſbury married Henry Elvedon, of Ging Mountney, in Eſſex; his ſon, in the reign of Edward IV., held the moiety of this manor, which he forfeited to the crown by an outlawry; this moiety was valued then at 15*l.* per annum. The king granted it to John Sturgeon, Eſq. John Lavenhan, who was poſſeſſed of the other moiety in right of his wife, ſiſter of the eldeſt, married to Henry Elvedon, had iſſue one daughter, married to John Joſlyn in Henry VI.'s reign, who, in Edward IV.'s time, was attainted of high treaſon; upon which his tenements in Weſtmill, called Maſters, his moiety of the manor of Gateſbury, and his eſtate in Uphall, were ſeized by the king. Edward IV. granted this moiety to Nicholas Harpsfield, Eſq. Upon a petition to the king, Edward Joſlyn was reſtored to his father's moiety of the manor; he held them till Henry VII.'s reign, when he diſpoſed of them to Humphrey Fitz-Herbert and heirs, who at that time was poſſeſſed of the other moiety in right of his wife, daughter and heireſs of Henry Elvedon; for John Sturgeon did not hold his part long, but reſtored it again to Elvedon. Humphrey Fitz-Herbert held the manors of Gateſbury and Maſters by one knight's fee, in Henry VII.'s reign, of John Earl of Orford. After the death of Humphrey and his wife, they came to the poſſeſſion of Sir John Williams in Edward VI.'s reign: he or his ſucceſſor ſold theſe and other manors to Thomas Hanchet, Eſq., who alſo held them of the Earl of Orford of his manor of Stanſted. Thomas, his ſon, had them in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He married Julian Pulter, widow of John Pulter, Eſq., and conveyed the manor of

Maſters to her for life, but afterwards ſold it to John Brograve, Eſq., of Gray's Inn, attorney-general of the dutchy of Lancaſter, in Queen Elizabeth's reign: he purchaſed ſeveral diſperſed parcels of lands here, and built a neat brick edifice, with four turrets to the corners, ſituated near a grove upon a dry hill, from whence there is a pleaſant proſpect to the eaſt. He united the manor of Milklays to that of Maſters, and held courts here under the name of Hamels, alias Milkly, and Hamels cum Maſters; which uſage has been ever ſince obſerved. Upon him King James I. conferred the honour of knighthood. Simeon, his ſon, ſucceeded him. From the Brograves Hamels came to Ralph Freeman, Eſq., by purchaſe; and from him it deſcended to the Earl of Hardwicke, who ſold it to the late John Melliſh, Eſq. The grounds are beautiful, and the old houſe much improved.

Thomas Hanchet, who was lord of the manors of Gateſbury and Uphall, ſold them to John Stone, Eſq., of the Inner Temple, and died, leaving his ſon Richard his heir, who ſucceeded him, was knighted, and ſold the manor to Robert Dicer, citizen of London, conſtituted ſheriff of the county in 1659, and made a baronet in 1662 in the 13th year of Charles II.'s reign. Upon his death theſe manors came to his ſon and heir, Sir Robert.

The manor of Cokehamſtead, in the Conqueror's time, was in Euſtace of Boulogne, and was worth 7*l.* per annum. From that family it paſſed to the crown, where it probably remained till it came to the family of Baard. In the reign of Henry III. Sir John Baard poſſeſſed it, who married the daughter of Richard Gateſbury, who gave him and his heirs a meadow, called Gateſbury Meadow, containing 16 acres, in this pariſh, with his daughter in marriage, by whom he had iſſue one daughter, his heireſs, married to John de la Lea, through whoſe hands this manor ſince paſſed, till it came to Simeon Brograve, Eſq., who gave it to Edward Brograve, his fourth ſon and heir; and in this family it continued.

There are ſome charitable donations in the pariſh, which together amount to a conſiderable ſum, though ſmall in general, and given by various benefactors.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

MAURICE, Biſhop of London, and his ſucceſſors, received from William the Conqueror the town and caſtle of Biſhop's Stortford, built by that king upon a fine artificial

artificial mount, made very ſteep after the mode of the Norman buildings of that age, between the town and Hockerill upon the eaſt ſide of the river Stort; and in order that the biſhop might be better able to maintain it, he granted him ſeveral lands and manors. It was demoliſhed by King John, becauſe the Biſhop of London was one of the three prelates who publiſhed the pope's interdiction againſt the kingdom; but when he reſtored the biſhops to their ſees, he ſuffered the Biſhop of London to reſume his poſſeſſion, which his ſucceſſors have ever ſince enjoyed. In the time of Queen Mary, Biſhop Bonner made uſe of the priſon adjoining to the caſtle, which was built of wood and brick, and was a deep dungeon, to confine the convicted Proteſtants. This priſon, which conſiſted of ſeveral rooms, was ſold about the year 1649, and the purchaſers pulled it down, with the bridge, and erected in its place an inn.

The town of Biſhop's Stortford ſtands in a dry ſoil and healthy air, and is about 28 miles diſtant from London. King John made it a corporation town, and it formerly ſent members to parliament. The Biſhop of London appoints a bailiff here for what is called his liberty, and to him all the ſheriff's warrants are directed. The biſhop holds his court leet and baron at the manor of Padmore, ſituated at the north end of the town. This is well-built and conſiderable, and is a thoroughfare to Cambridge, Newmarket, &c. It conſiſts of four ſtreets in the form of a croſs pointing to the four quarters. Here are two alms-houſes and a grammar-ſchool; the latter was built about the end of the ſeventeenth century by the contributions of the neighbouring gentry of this county and that of Eſſex. In ſtands in the high ſtreet on arches, under which are ſhops and a market. It is a ſquare building. Here is a weekly market on Thurſdays, and three annual fairs, that is, on Holy Thurſday, Tueſday after Trinity Sunday, and the 10th of October, all for horſes and black cattle.

The manor of the rectory was formerly granted to the precentors of St. Paul, who have been ſucceſſively lords of it.

The manor of Picots was ſo called from a perſon of the name of Picot, who was lord of it; ſince that it came to the poſſeſſion of —— Hawkins; it continued in this family for ſome time, till by marriage of Elizabeth, daughter of —— Withered, who died in 1697, the manor deſcended to Mary, wife of Robert Dawks; Anne, the daughter of Elizabeth, wife of John Barrington, to whom they gave their part; and Suſan, the wife of William Layer, who then poſſeſſed it.

The

The manor of Padmore is ſituated north of this town, as before mentioned.

The rectory and vicarage of Biſhop's Stortford are appropriated to the perpetual uſe of the precentors of St. Paul, London, who allow all the tithes of a great farm, called the Park, to the vicar of the pariſh church; the reſidue of the parſonage has been determined to the Denny family. The vicarage was rated in the king's books at 12*l.* per annum. Mr. William Cowper, vicar, in 1686, built a houſe on the ſouth ſide of the churchyard. The church is erected on a hill near the middle of the town in the deanery of Braughing, in the dioceſe of London, and is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel. It conſiſts of a body and one large aiſle on each ſide, with a chancel at the weſt end; it has a tower and eight bells, with a ſpire about 50 feet high. The church had an organ ſo long ſince as the reign of Henry VII., and is a very ancient ſtructure. Here are ſome benefactions to the pariſh. In 1584 Dr. Harvey gave 10*l.* to the poor of this town, and 6*l.* to the churchwardens of this town and of Littlebury, in Eſſex: he was maſter of Trinity College, Cambridge. Rowland Eliot, Gent., gave 40*l.* per annum for ever to the poor out of his manor of Walkers, in Farnham, Eſſex. In 1597 Mrs. Margaret Deane, of London, gave 20*l.* to the poor, and 5*l.* per annum towards erecting a free-ſchool here. The others are ſmall benefactions. Mr. Leigh gave a library for the uſe of the ſchool. The trade of this town has been much increaſed of late from a canal which was finiſhed here in 1769. The number of inhabitants in 1800 was 2305.

THORNLEY, OR THORLEY.

THIS pariſh is ſituated about two miles diſtance from Biſhop's Stortford on the weſt, and ſtands upon a hill: it was called Thornley from the abundance of thorns and briers which formerly over-run thoſe grounds. William the Conqueror gave it to Geffrey de Mandeville when he ſubdued this kingdom. It was at that time worth 8*l.* a year. In the time of the Confeſſor it was worth 10*l.* William Biſhop of London bought it of King William, and in that biſhopric it now remains. This manor paſſed with that of Sayeſbury, until it came into the poſſeſſion of Richard de Thorley, who held it in the time of Henry III.; and in all probability took his name from this place. His ſon, in Edward I.'s reign, granted it to William, ſon of Gerbredge, of Germuth; he was a vintner, and gained his wealth by ſelling wine at Yarmouth,

Yarmouth, in Norfolk. In the time of Henry IV. the manor came into the poſſeſſion of John Leventhorp, Eſq. Sir Thomas Leventhorp, Bart., releaſed it to William Kiffin, Eſq., of London, and his heirs, who, in the reign of James II., was ſheriff, and afterwards alderman of London. William and Mary Kiffin in 1691 conveyed the manor to John Billers, citizen and haberdaſher, of London. Thorley-hall is now the ſeat of —— Grant, Eſq.

The rectory was valued in the reign of Henry VIII. in the king's books at 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, of which the biſhops of London are patrons. The church ſtands in the middle of the pariſh, in the deanery of Braughing, in the dioceſe of London, having a ſquare tower at the weſt end, in which are four bells, with a neat ſpire erected upon it.

SAWBRIDGEWORTH.

THIS town is ſituated on the river Stort, thirty miles from London, and about three miles diſtant from Thorley, on the ſouth, upon a dry hill of gravel. It derived the name from the Say family, lords of the manor here, the word bridge, and worth, which in the Saxon ſignifies a manſion or dwelling-houſe. When the Conqueror ſubdued the realm, he gave this eſtate to Geffrey de Mandeville: it was then worth 50*l.* a year, and in the Confeſſor's reign 60*l.* His brother, created by Henry II. Earl of Eſſex, at his death, gave the church of Sawbridgeworth to the monks of Weſtminſter. Beatrice, his aunt, was his heireſs; ſhe was married to William de Say, who had a villa here, called Sayeſbury; his lands were taken from him at the rebellion of the barons, but reſtored to him at his being readmitted into the king's favour. It continued in this family, with little variation, till Sir William Say, in Henry VII.'s reign, ſettled it at his death on his daughter Mary, married to Henry Bourchier, Earl of Eſſex. He had iſſue by his wife an only daughter, called Anne, married to Sir William Parre, Knight, Lord Parre of Kendal, afterwards Earl of Eſſex and Marquis of Northampton. Upon his arraignment Queen Elizabeth reſerved this manor of Sayeſbury. King Philip and Queen Mary granted it for forty years to Sir Robert Rocheſter and Sir Edward Waldegrave, Knights. After this the manor continued in the crown till James I. granted it to Sir Lionel Cranfield and his heirs; he was afterwards created Lord Cranfield and Earl of Middleſex. King

Charles

Charles I. granted the manor to Arthur Brett, Eſq., of London, and Nicholas Horman, Eſq., of Chelſea, and the park called Sayeſbury Park. The Earl of Middleſex, Arthur Brett, Eſq., and Nicholas Horman, in the ſame reign, granted it, with appurtenances, to Thomas Hewitt, Eſq., of St. Martin's, in the county of Middleſex, and his heirs. He was the eldeſt ſon of Sir William Hewitt, Knight and Baronet, and Sheriff for the county. It continued in this family till 1662. At the death of Sir Thomas Hewitt, who deviſed it to his wife, her ſon inherited next; and at his death it came to his ſiſter, Lady Crofts Read. After this the Freemans had it; and from them it came to the Earls of Hardwicke.

The manor of Piſhobury was granted by William Say, lord of the manor of Sayeſbury, to Warren Fitz-Gerald, an eminent man in the reign of King John, whoſe two ſons divided this eſtate between them: Warren, the eldeſt, gave his part, called Sawbridgeworth, to the abbot and monks of the church of St. Edmund's-bury; and Henry, the other ſon, gave part of his ſhare to the abbots and monks of St. Mary's church, in Reading; but reſerved the other part, called Piſho, to himſelf. This name was taken from a Roman captain of the name of Piſo, who reſided here when the Romans governed the iſland. In the reign of Edward II. this manor was in the poſſeſſion of Robert de Inſula Monte, who held it of Sir Geffrey Say of his manor of Sayeſbury. Robert, his ſon and heir, in Edward III.'s reign, conveyed it to Richard Lord Scroop, Baron of Bolton, who founded a chantry here within his caſtle of Bolton, which he endowed with a rent of 43*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum; 33*l.* 6*s.* of it was paid out of his manor of Piſhobury. He died in Henry IV.'s reign, and demiſed the eſtate, conſiſting of houſes, an orchard, 58 acres of paſture, 36 acres of meadow, and 225½ acres of land, in the whole containing 319 acres, to John Chauncy, Eſq., for a long term of years, reſerving the rent of 12*l.* to be paid to Richard Scroop and his heirs. Upon the death of Richard Lord Scroop it deſcended to Roger, his ſon and heir. John Scroop, in Henry VIII.'s reign, ſold this manor to truſtees for the uſe of the king. The heirs of John Chauncy continued here, and held the ſcite of the manor under the crown until the 23d year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Henry Chauncy, then leſſee, falling under the diſpleaſure of Lord Hunſdon, favourite of the queen, he prevailed on her majeſty to ſell the manor to Walter Mildmay, Eſq., who was afterwards knighted and ſheriff of the county of Suffolk. He built a very neat and fair pile for the manor-houſe upon a riſing ground, in the vale near the river Stort. He died in 1606.

Sir Thomas Mildmay ſold it, in the reign of James I., to Lionel Cranfield, Eſq. Charles I. granted it to Arthur Brett, Eſq., Nicholas Harman, and their heirs. It went with them as the laſt, and was next in the poſſeſſion of Mrs. Mills. The houſe and gardens are very pleaſant.

The manor of Tednambury was part of the manor of Sayeſbury, which Warren, the ſon of Gerald, gave by the name of Sawbridgeworth to St. Edmund, from which church it is now by contraction called Tednambury; and by a deed in 1281 one carucate of land in this pariſh, in the hamlet of Tednambury, was appropriated to the uſe of the cellarer of the monaſtery of St. Edmund, to feed the convent, and to entertain ſtrangers, &c. The abbots and monks of this church poſſeſſed the manor till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown; and from thence was conveyed to Henry Parker, Lord Morley; and from him to Lord Mounteagle. In 1659 Thomas Lindſey purchaſed it of Thomas Martin, Eſq., the latter of whom came to it by marriage. This manor has juriſdiction of a court leet, where one conſtable is choſen for that hamlet, and all other officers belonging to the leet, and alſo of a court baron where the tenants pay admiſſion.

The manor of Sawbridgeworth, alias Groves, was another part of the manor of Sayeſbury, which Henry, one of the ſons of Gerald, gave to the church of Reading, in Berkſhire. That church held it till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. King Henry VIII. granted to William Goodwin, Eſq., of Writtle, in the county of Eſſex, this manor, with appurtenances, lately belonging to the abbot of Reading monaſtery. He ſold it to Thomas Gooday and his heirs, of the county of Eſſex; the latter granted it to Robert Hirſt and his heirs; his ſon and heir ſold it to John Duke, yeoman, who died ſeiſed of it, leaving a ſon, Robert, who, in the fourth year of the reign of Charles I., granted it to his ſon, John Duke, M. A., and rector of High Roding, in Eſſex. In the reign of Charles II. it was conveyed by his mother, who had purchaſed it of her ſon, to Thomas Rogers, of Hunſdon, in this county; his ſon granted it to Edmund Godwin, of Eaſtwick, in this county, high ſheriff in 1696.

The manor of Marthams, alias Shingey-hall, was the land which was held of Geffrey de Mandeville, and afterwards called Marthams, from the family who were owners of it, till it was ſold to John Leventhorp, Eſq., of Yorkſhire, about the fifteenth year of King Richard II.: he was member of parliament for the county. It continued in this family till about the middle of the ſeventeenth century, when it

came to the family of Cooke upon the death of Sir Thomas Leventhorp, who was killed by a kick from a horſe, leaving Mary, his heireſs and daughter, who married John Cooke, Eſq., of Melbourne, in Derbyſhire.

The manor of Hide-hall is ſituated upon a hill in the eaſt ſide of this pariſh near the river: it was included, in the Conqueror's time, among the lands of Geffrey de Mandeville. It took the name from the Hide family, who ſucceeded the Mandevilles; and in Henry III.'s reign it paſſed from them to the Joſſelyns: Thomas Joſſelyn, by marriage with Maud, daughter and coheireſs of Sir Thomas Hide, came into poſſeſſion of it, and with that family it continued. It is now the property of the Earl of Roden.

William de Mandeville, lord of the manor of Sayeſbury, gave the rectory of the church of Sawbridgeworth to the monks of Weſtminſter, who demiſed it to John Chauncy for a term of years. In this family it continued for ſome length of time, till Alexander Chauncy ſold his ſhare, which was a moiety, to Patrick Cary, who conveyed it to —— Kearſley and —— Leigh. William, another ſon of John Chauncy, had the other moiety. The vicarage was rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 16*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, of which the biſhops of London are patrons. The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, from whom it is called Great St. Mary's; it ſtands at the eaſt end of the town on the brow of a hill near the manor-houſe of Sayeſbury. It is in the deanery of Braughing, in the dioceſe of London; and contains three aiſles and a chancel at the eaſt end, and a large tower at the weſt, ſquare, with a ſpire. There are a few charitable donations.

GOLDESTON, GELDESTON, OR GILSTON.

THIS pariſh was part of the poſſeſſions of Geffrey de Mandeville, and is about three miles diſtant from Sawbridgeworth ſouth-weſt. In all probability it was waſte ground at the time of the Conqueſt. He erected the church, and made it parochial; for he had the tithes, preſented to the living, and gave the church to the abbey of Walden, which monaſtery he founded himſelf. It came afterwards to William de Albinus, whoſe only daughter married Lord Roos of Helmeſley, in Holderneſſe, in the county of York: they had iſſue William Lord Roos, and Emeline, married to William de Thany. He gave his meſſuage, by the name of Great Goldeſtone,

ſtone, now called Overhall, to this daughter, and the meſſuage of Little Goldeſton, now called Netherhall, to his ſon Robert Lord Roos, who ſucceeded him. He was knighted by King Henry III. Richard de Thany conveyed this manor to Ralph Giffard; William, his ſon, then poſſeſſed the manors, both of Great and Little Goldeſton. The latter manor was in the hands of Geffrey de Brockhole, and then in the Chauncy family. From this family it came to Sir John Gore, Knight, Alderman of London. Sir Humphrey Gore adorned the houſe, and made a park to it. From the Gores it came to William Plomer, Eſq., member for the county, whoſe reſidence is Gilſton park.

The rectory of the church was valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 3*s.* per annum, of which the Biſhops of London are patrons.

EASTWICK.

THIS pariſh is ſituated about a mile from Goldeſton, on the road leading from thence to London towards the ſouth, and derives its name from its ſituation upon the eaſt part of this county on the river Stort, wick ſignifying a place upon a river, or the ſea ſhore. In the time of the Conqueror this place belonged to Geffrey de Beck, and is ſo recorded in Domeſday-book. In the Confeſſor's reign it was worth 4*l.* In the time of Henry I. Robert de Wenelings held one hide here; and in the reign of John, Simon Beauchamp, of Bedford, gave the chapel of Eaſtwick to the abbey of Chickſand, which was a monaſtery of his mother's foundation. Baldwin, ſon of Giſlebert, gave this church for the ſupport of the brethren then in the church of Brune. The manor came to the crown, and Henry III. granted it to Richard Tany, who was ſheriff of the counties of Eſſex and Hertford. His ſon eſtabliſhed a market here on every Tueſday, and a fair to continue for three days on the vigils and the morrow of St. Botolph. In Richard II.'s reign it was in William Doreward; from his ſon it paſſed to Ralph Hull by purchaſe, who conveyed it to Roger Spice and his wife and heirs for ever; from them it came to Sir John Oldhall, Knight, who afterwards made it over to the Biſhop of Durham and others. The manor came afterwards to the crown, and Richard III., by way of exchange, granted it to Sir William Stanley, Knight. King Henry VII. granted to the Archbiſhop of Canterbury and others this manor. In Henry VIII.'s reign the manor was annexed to the

dutchy of Lancaſter; and Queen Elizabeth granted it to Henry Cary. It remained in the family of Cary, Earls of Dover, till the year 1641, when this earl and his ſon ſold it, with the advowſon, to Sir John Gore, of Gilſton.

The rectory was valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*, and the lords of the manor have been ſucceſſively patrons of it. The church is ſituated near the town, in the deanery of Braughing, in the dioceſe of London, built in the form of a croſs, and contains an aiſle, with a ſmall tower and ſpire.

STANSTED ABBOT.

THIS pariſh was ſo called from the gravelly ſoil where it is ſituated, as the meaning of the Saxon word imports; and when Michael de Wauncy gave part of it to the abbots and monks of Waltham, it received the name of Stanſted Abbot. The church ſtands about two miles diſtant from Eaſtwick towards the ſouth upon the road. The town ſtands in the vale, which anciently was a place of trade, and a borough belonging to Ralph, brother of Ilgar. It was worth 17*l.* a year. It ſtood on the river Lea. In the time of William Rufus and Henry I. Roger de Wauncy was lord of the borough, and gave the church of Stanſted to the priory of Merton and the canons, who were of the Auguſtine order; but ſhortly after, the manor came to Michael de Wauncy, who ſold the moiety to King Henry II., and he gave the other half to the canons of the church of Waltham. It remained in this monaſtery till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown, and Henry VIII. granted it to Philip Paris, Eſq.; from him it paſſed to Edward Baeſh, Eſq., victualler of the navy. He died in Elizabeth's reign. Ralph, his ſon, ſucceeded him, and erected a chapel on the north ſide of the chancel in 1578. Edward, his brother, ſucceeding, conveyed it to George Earl of Rutland and others for the uſe of Sir Edward Baeſh and his heirs. He died in 1653, and leaving no iſſue, the manor came to Ralph Baeſh, Eſq., who, being involved in his circumſtances, ſold part of his eſtates. His ſon ſold this manor to Edmund Field, Eſq., M. P., of Marden, in this county.

The manor of Rye was by King Henry VI. permitted to be imparked; it was otherwiſe called the Iſle of Rye, in Stanſted Abbot. Andrew Ogard and others built a caſtle here of lime and ſtone, with battlements, &c. About the latter end of the

reign

reign of Henry VIII. Edward Baeſh, Eſq., purchaſed it, and it has ſince paſſed with him as the manor of Stanſted till it came to Edmund Field, Eſq.

The vicarage was rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 10*l.*, and the lords of the manor are the patrons. The church ſtands on a hill near the manor-houſe, in the deanery of Braughing, in the dioceſe of London. A chapel was erected on the north ſide of the church by Ralph Baeſh, Eſq. At the weſt end of the church is a ſquare tower, and a ſhort ſpire erected upon it. Sir Edward Baeſh built an alms-houſe, and endowed it with 25*l.* per annum, and 2*s.* a week to the ſix poor women who inhabited it. He alſo gave 20*l.* a year for the maintenance of a ſchool-maſter to teach in a free grammar-ſchool here, and made the lords of the manor perpetual patrons. He built a houſe for the vicar, and laid two acres of land to it, and gave a cottage for the uſe of the clerk of the church for the time being.

HONESDON, OR HUNSDON.

THIS pariſh derives its name from the hill where the town is erected, about two miles north of Stanſted, which was doubtleſs part of that manor in the Conqueror's time. Richard Earl of Hertford, eldeſt ſon of Gilbert de Tonebridge, was in poſſeſſion of it after Aluuin, who held it immediately ſubſequent to the Conqueſt. In King John's reign it belonged to Sir Walter de Montgomery, Knight, Earl of Ferrars. In Edward I.'s reign it was in the poſſeſſion of John Eugaine. It continued in this family till the death of Thomas, in Edward III.'s time, when the eſtate came to his ſiſter Joice, wife of John Goldington, who held it in her right. Robert, their ſon, ſold it to Sir William Oldhall, Knight, who was attainted of high treaſon for adhering to the Duke of York. His ſon was, however, reſtored to his eſtates upon the acceſſion of Edward IV.; and he built a houſe after the manner of a caſtle, which building coſt 7222*l.*; an enormous ſum in thoſe days. He was ſlain with Richard III. at the battle of Boſworth-field, and attainted; by which means the manor came to the crown: others ſay, Richard III. poſſeſſed the manor, and granted it to Sir William Stanley. King Henry VII. granted it to his mother, Margaret, Counteſs of Richmond, and Thomas Earl of Derby, her huſband, for their lives. After their deceaſe it reverted to the crown; and Henry VIII. granted it, with others, to Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk. Henry VIII. having erected a royal palace

palace here, where he was accuſtomed to reſort for the benefit of his health, annexed the manors of Stanſted and Roydon, and other lands, to this palace, and made them an honour; and here he educated his children, that they might enjoy the benefit of the air. Edward VI. aſſigned this royal palace to Lady Mary, eldeſt daughter of Henry VIII., who reſided here till Lady Jane Dudley was proclaimed Queen of England. In the reign of Philip and Mary the honour and lordſhip of Hunſdon, and other manors, were annexed to the dutchy of Lancaſter, and during her reign continued in the crown. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Henry Cary, ſon of Sir William Cary, and Mary Boleyn, his wife, ſiſter of Anne Boleyn, mother of the queen, whom ſhe knighted, and advanced to the dignity of a baron, by the title of Baron Hunſdon, and profuſely honoured with places of high rank. Henry, in the reign of James I., was advanced to the dignity of Viſcount Rochford; and in the reign of Charles I., to the title of Earl of Dover. John Earl of Dover, his ſon, ſold this eſtate to William Willoughby, Eſq., younger brother of Lord Willoughby, of Parham; upon whoſe death Lord Willoughby ſucceeded him. About the year 1671 William Lord Willoughby ſold the manor and advowſon to Matthew Bluck, Eſq., of London, in whoſe family it continued till purchaſed by the Calvert family, in which it now remains.

The church is near the manor-houſe, on a high hill, in the deanery of Braughing, and dioceſe of London. It has a chancel at the eaſt, and a chapel next the ſouth ſide; a ſquare tower adjoins the weſt end, with a ſmall ſpire. The rectory is rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 12*l.*, and the lords of the manor are the patrons.

WIDEFORD.

THIS pariſh is about a mile diſtant from that of Hunſdon towards the north; it was ſo called from the ford. The Biſhop of London held it at the time of the Conqueror; it was then worth 5*l.* per annum; and in the time of the Confeſſor, 8*l.* Shortly after, this land came to Robert de Belmont, who was nearly allied to William the Conqueror, and who rewarded him with ninety-one manors in different counties, and gave him the earldom of Mellent. In Henry I.'s reign he gave this manor to the monks of Bermondſey, who in proceſs of time gave it to Adam de Stratton; but as the grant was made without licence by the monks, the manor was ſeized by the

king, and Edward I. granted it to the ſame prior and monks again, in whoſe hands it continued till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. Henry VIII. gave it to Sir Richard Southwell, Knight, and his heirs; from whom it came to Robert Adams, who ſold it, in the reign of Philip and Mary, to Rowland Backhouſe, Alderman of London, whoſe grandſon, Charles II. created a baronet. Sir William Backhouſe ſold the manor to Thomas Byrd, Eſq., of Mardocks, in this county.

The vicarage was rated in the king's books at 12*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, of which the lords of the manor are patrons. The church ſtands near the road leading to Ware, in the middle of the pariſh, in the deanery of Braughing, in the dioceſe of London, upon a hill facing the weſt; it has a ſquare tower, with a ſpire.

WARE.

THE Danes, with the aſſiſtance of other barbarous nations, taking advantage of the weakneſs of the people occaſioned by their inteſtine wars, during the Saxon Heptarchy, arrived in the Thames in the year 894, and ſailed from thence through the river Lea in light veſſels up to this place, as the tides at that time flowed to Hertford. Here they erected a bank or dam, in order to ſecure themſelves from the royal armies, which was at that time called Weare. Alfred could not remove them till he had made the great wall, called Blackwall, to ſtop the uſual courſe of the tide, and drained the level by dividing the current into three ſtreams near Waltham, ſo that their ſhips lay upon dry ground; and from this weare the town received its name. Others report, that it was built by order of King Edward, the ſon of Alfred. Hugh de Grentemaiſnil held lands here at the time of the Conqueror, and accompanied him in his expedition to England. Ivo, his ſon, enjoyed his poſſeſſions; upon his death his brother Hugh poſſeſſed this manor and eſtate; he left iſſue Petronil, his heireſs; ſhe inherited them, and married Robert Blanchmaines, Earl of Leiceſter, and left three ſons. Robert Fitzparnell came to it next; he was the eldeſt, and Earl of Leiceſter. He died in 1200, and left the eſtate to his ſiſters, Amy, wife of Simon Mountford, and Margaret, married to Sayer de Quincy, between whom this great earldom was divided. Simon, on the partition, was created Earl of Leiceſter; De Quincy was created Earl of Wincheſter, having the other half of the earldom and this manor for the ſhare of Margaret. Sayer aſſociated

ated himſelf with the barons then in rebellion againſt King John, and was party to the agreement made by the king, when he was compelled to reſign the city of London to the government of the barons, and to grant them liberty to chooſe twenty-five barons to govern the realm: he was one of the twenty-five; nor could the pope intimidate him with his excommunications; for by his great power and authority he cauſed the iron chain, which locked up the paſſage over the bridge at this town, to be broken down, and the gate to be laid open; for before that time no cart or horſes could be allowed to paſs over the bridge without paying toll: by this means the great road was turned from Hertford through this town, which is now become large and populous. Sayer died in 1219. Margaret ſurviving her huſband, reſided much in the priory of this town, where ſhe built many rooms. Roger de Quincy was their ſon and heir. At his death his three daughters, coheireſſes, inherited the eſtate, the father having in his lifetime obtained a grant for a market in this town. In 1403 this town was inundated with the waters which flowed in from the uplands. It continued in the family of De Quincy ſome time, and by marriage came to Baldwin Wake. In this family it remained, till by marriage it came to Sir Thomas Holland, in Edward III.'s reign: he was Earl of Kent afterwards, and his heir, Duke of Kent, ſo created by Richard II. This duke loſt his title upon the acceſſion of Henry IV., when he was attainted and his lands ſeized. Edmund, his brother, ſucceeded him in the title of Earl of Kent. He died in poſſeſſion of this manor, which became the ſhare of his ſiſter Eleanor, wife of Thomas of Montacute, Earl of Saliſbury. At his death, in the reign of Henry VI., he left a daughter, married to Richard Nevill, afterwards made Earl of Saliſbury; they left iſſue, Richard, the famous Earl of Warwick, who aſſiſted Edward IV. to obtain the throne; but afterwards, from the intrigues of that prince and his party, and the diſſenſions which aroſe, this earl took arms againſt that king, and replaced Henry VI. upon the throne: but before the revolution of one year, Edward landed again, and routed the Earl of Warwick in a battle at Barnet, where he, with his friends, were defeated and ſlain. He left two daughters, Iſabel, married to George Duke of Clarence, and Anne to Edward Prince of Wales. Upon this the manor of Ware was conveyed to George Duke of Clarence, who was murdered in a butt of malmeſey, leaving Edward, his ſon, the next heir; upon whoſe death the manor came to the crown. Henry VII. granted it to his mother, the Counteſs of Richmond, with all its appurtenances. She lived to ſee the coronation of Henry VIII., who

who was her grandſon. Lady Margaret Poole, ſiſter of Edward, ſon of the Duke of Clarence, received the eſtate from Henry, with the title of Counteſs of Saliſbury, and all the eſtates which came to the crown by the attainder of Edward Earl of Warwick, her brother: ſhe, however, finally loſt her head, and the manor of Ware, which was then valued at 107*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* per annum. She left four ſons and one daughter, married to Lord Stafford: he was never, however, in poſſeſſion of this manor, for upon the attainder of his mother, the eſtate came to the crown, where it remained till Mary Queen of England granted it to Catherine Counteſs of Huntingdon and her heirs. Queen Elizabeth confirmed this grant. The counteſs, a ſhort time after, ſold it to Thomas Fanſhaw, Eſq., who claimed, amongſt other immunities, a market here on every Tueſday. He was the king's remembrancer, and juſtice of peace for the county. He died poſſeſſed of the manor in 1600. His ſon ſucceeded him, and was knighted; and was a ſtrict adherent of King Charles I., for which he was impriſoned, and loſt his eſtate; but it was reſtored to him upon the acceſſion of Charles II., and he was created a viſcount. He left three ſons.

About the eighteenth year of Henry III.'s reign Margaret Counteſs of Leiceſter, and lady of the manor, founded a priory for friars in the north part of this town, which ſhe dedicated to St. Francis, and endowed with the tithes of this church and that of Thunderick, which they enjoyed till the reign of Henry VIII., when it was ſurrendered to that king, who conveyed it to Thomas Byrch; he held it in the reign of Edward VI. It was afterwards ſold to James Stanley, citizen and ſcrivener of London; his ſon and heir ſold it to —— Haydon, who gave it by will to different perſons, who alienated it to Thomas Feltham, innkeeper, of London; and he ſold it to Robert Hadgeley, of Mundon. The ſame king granted the advowſon of the church, with the manor of the rectory and tithes, to Trinity College, which he founded in Cambridge. This college demiſed it to Alexander Mead, Eſq., for a term of years, who aſſigned the leaſe to Sir Richard Tufton, Knight: upon his death it came to Margaret, his widow, who married Seymour Tredenham, of Tregonin, in Cornwall.

The manor of Weſtmill in this pariſh is ſituated about a mile diſtant from the town of Ware, and in the Conqueror's time belonged to Ralph de Toderic; it was then worth about 12*l.* per annum, and in the time of the Confeſſor 14*l.*: from his heirs it paſſed to the family of Half-hide, who held it in the reign of Henry III.

Iſabella, by marriage with Adam Naſh, upon her agreement with him, took the name of Half-hide: ſhe was daughter of John Half-hide: their ſon poſſeſſed it in the reign of Henry VI. He had iſſue John, whoſe daughter Amy ſucceeded her father in the manor; and in 1464 married William Mandane, Eſq. Their ſon poſſeſſed it; and he had iſſue Thomas, who left two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth; Margaret married Thomas Shotbolt, Eſq., in whoſe right he became poſſeſſed of the manor; Philip, the ſecond ſon of the right deſcendant, ſold it to George Bromley, citizen and haberdaſher, of London; his ſon George came into poſſeſſion of it, and was very loyal to King Charles I.: he aſſiſted Sir Thomas Fanſhaw to raiſe men for him at the ſiege of Colcheſter in 1648. After the death of that king he endeavoured to ſecure his ſon in the throne; but failing in the attempt, his eſtate was ſequeſtered, and he obliged to retire to ſome obſcure ſpot till Charles II. was reſtored: he held the manor to the time of his death, which he left to his ſon, who, being unable to pay his father's debts, ſold it to Thomas Feltham, who held it ſome time, and left his ſon his heir.

The manor of Mardock is ſituated upon the river Aſh, about two miles eaſt of the town of Ware. The eſtate is very pleaſant, and was the property of a perſon named Mardock, whence it took the name. It afterwards came to William James, whoſe daughter and heireſs married Hugh Chapman, by which marriage he became poſſeſſed of their eſtate. It continued in this family ſome time, till Edward Chapman ſold it to John Watts, citizen and clothworker, of London. He married in 1574 Margaret, daughter of Sir James Hawes, lord mayor of London. In his poſterity it remained till John Buck, of Hamley Grange, in Lincolnſhire, purchaſed it; and he ſold it to Thomas Bird, Eſq.

The manor of Grumbalds is ſituated upon a hill, called Widbury Hill; it has a good houſe belonging to it; and was the ſeat of Thomas Hill, who ſold it to James Stanley, citizen and ſcrivener, of London: Thomas Stanley, his grandſon, ſold it to Alexander Weld, Eſq., who died ſeiſed of it in 1670, leaving iſſue Alexander, his ſon.

The manor of Blakeſwere is about three miles diſtant from the town eaſtward, and belonged to the family of the Hangers. It is an agreeable ſeat, and was ſold by them to John King, Gent., who afterwards diſpoſed of it to Heneage Featherſtone, Eſq., juſtice of peace for the county; created a baronet in 1660. He ſold it to Sir Thomas

Thomas Leventhorp, Bart.: he rebuilt the houſe, and granted it afterwards to Sir Thomas Clutterbuck, Knight, who died in 1683. After his death the houſe was conveyed to John Plomer, Eſq.

The town of Ware is ſituated in a vale on the eaſt ſide of the river Lea; it conſiſts of one ſtreet in length, with other ſmaller ones and lanes full of houſes, and famous for inns, whereof one is remarkable for a large bed, which is twelve feet ſquare; the unuſual ſize of this, frequently invited curious travellers to view it; among whom it is reported that ſix citizens and their wives came from London in a frolic to ſport in it; having feaſted themſelves with avidity, the women agreed that they and their huſbands ſhould lie in the great bed together, ſix at one end and ſix at the other, with a man and his wife, then a wife and her huſband, then a man and his wife; the other three couple were to lie in the ſame order; but the hoſt intending to play a trick, provided a poſſet, in which he put ſome pulvis crepitorius, of which they ate heartily: after a ſhort repoſe the effects of the poſſet greatly incommoded them, and they were obliged to haſten their return to London. On the left of the town is Ware park, the ſeat of T. H. Byde, Eſq.

The vicarage of Ware was rated in the king's books at 20*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* a year, of which the maſters and fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, have been patrons ſince the grant of Henry VIII. The church is ſituated on the eaſt ſide of the great ſtreet, in a very neat churchyard, in the deanery of Braughing, in the dioceſe of London, and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, from whom it is called St. Mary the Great. It is built after the form of a croſs, and contains three large aiſles; in the middle one the governors of Chriſt's Hoſpital have erected a handſome gallery for the boys, who are put out to nurſe in the town. There are three chancels at the eaſt end of the church, covered with lead; at the weſt end is a ſquare tower, with five bells, and a dwarf ſpire erected upon the tower. The church has four large vaults; the firſt belonging to Ware park, the ſecond to Sir Robert Fanſhaw, the third to Sir Thomas Byde, and the fourth to Sir Thomas Clutterbuck. Here are ſome liberal benefactions towards the poor in the pariſh. Mrs. Eleanor Brydges gave 8*l.* a year in land to the poor; Mrs. Elmer 8*l.* in a tenement; Mr. Humphrey Spencer gave an inn, called the Lamb, of the yearly rent of 14*l.* to the poor ſcholars who were to be educated at the ſchool of Ware, amounting to ten in number, and 5*l.* a year for the education of five children in Ware Upland, beſides other ſmaller gifts. George Mead, M. D., gave 5*l.* per annum to the poor, and a meſſuage of land of 18*l.* yearly

value to the poor of Ware. The governors of the New River alſo gave 22*l.* annually from tenements and lands here. The church clerk gave four acres to the clerks of the pariſh ſucceſſively.

THUNDERIDGE.

THIS pariſh lies about two miles north-eaſt of Ware, in a vale on the ſouth ſide of the river Rib, which in Domeſday-book was called Tonrich, of which the Biſhop of Bayeux in France was lord. Hugh de Grentemeſnil, lord of Ware, held this manor of the Biſhop of Bayeux, and afterwards purchaſed it. In the Confeſſor's time it was worth 5*l.* per annum. Almod had poſſeſſion of it at that time. In the time of Edward III. it was in the poſſeſſion of William Diſney the younger; it continued in his family till the reign of Henry IV., when they ſold it to John Hamſterly, who conveyed it to John Pery, the elder, of Thunderick, in the reign of Henry VI. In this family it remained till it came to Henry Gardiner of London, who was the purchaſer of it: he had two ſons, to the youngeſt of whom he gave this manor; he lived in Henry VIII.'s reign; and from him it paſſed to Simon Gardiner of London. In this family it continued. Thunderidge-bury is the ſeat of J. Hollingſworth, Eſq.

The rectory is impropriated to the perpetual uſe of the maſters and fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge; and the vicarage was rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 6*l.*, of which the maſters and fellows are patrons. The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is called Little St. Mary's; it is ſituated at the bottom of the hill near the manor-houſe, in the deanery of Barking, and in the dioceſe of London. At the weſt end of the church is a ſquare tower, with a ſpire.

STANELOW, OR STANDON.

THIS pariſh is called Stanelow, or Standon, from the neighbouring hill; for both theſe names ſignify a ſtony hill. In the time of the Conqueror, Rothais, daughter of the Earl of Buckingham, then wife of Richard, ſon of Earl Giſlebert, held the manor. In the time of the Confeſſor it was worth 34*l.* After the death of Richard this counteſs married Eudo Dapifer, who built the caſtle of Colcheſter, with the monaſtery

monaſtery of St. John, where they were buried in the time of Henry I., leaving iſſue Margaret, who married William de Mandeville. Gilbert de Clare, her eldeſt ſon, heir to the eſtates, gave the church of Standon to the knights hoſpitallers, with 140 acres of land, and his vineyard there. He died in 1151, in the reign of King Stephen. It continued in this family till the eſtate was divided among three ſiſters of Gilbert de Clare, who died without male iſſue in Edward II.'s reign, when the manor came to Elizabeth, who had married Roger D'Amory, who obtained a charter for free warren at Standon, but was afterwards attainted; ſhe poſſeſſed the manor, and at her death, in Edward III.'s reign, left Elizabeth, her grand-daughter, her heireſs; ſhe married Lionel Duke of Clarence, third ſon of Edward III. This duke obtained a charter for a market on every Friday at his manor of Standon, and a fair for three days, in the vigils, on the eve-day, and morrow of St. Peter ad Vincula, yearly. He left an only daughter, Philippa, married to Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March; ſhe poſſeſſed the eſtate. Roger was their ſon and heir, and after him Edmond: he was heir to the crown, and died in Henry VI.'s reign. Richard Duke of York was next heir: he attempted to gain the crown, but dying at Wakefield, and his ſon Edward being proclaimed King of England, under the title of Edward IV., this manor came to the crown, and continued there till Henry VIII. gave it to Ralph Sadler, Eſq., of Hackney, Middleſex. Sir Ralph Sadler, privy councellor to Queen Elizabeth, and chancellor of the dutchy of Lancaſter, built a noble houſe here, and died in 1587, leaving Thomas his heir. Ralph was his heir, and Gertrude, his daughter; Sir Walter Aſton, of the county of Stafford, married Gertrude; and Ralph, her brother, dying, ſhe came into poſſeſſion of the manor; and thus it paſſed to the family of Walter Lord Aſton, their ſon and heir, created a baron in 1627. The heirs of the laſt Lord Aſton ſold the eſtate to William Plomer, Eſq., about forty years ſince.

The manor of Berewick was part of the poſſeſſions of the ancient family of the Bauds, who were lords of the manor of Hadham-hall: they, about the reign of Henry VII., ſold this manor to John Crouch, who lived here in Henry VIII.'s reign; his grandſon ſold it to Thomas Nuce; Thomas, his ſon, ſold it to Thomas Flyer, Eſq.

The manor of Milkley was part of the revenue of the crown in Henry VIII.'s time; King Philip and Queen Mary annexed it to the dutchy of Lancaſter; Charles I. granted it to Edward Ditchfield and others in truſt for the mayor and commons

commons of the city of London. Theſe truſtees ſold this manor to Edward Brograve and his heirs.

The manor of Bartrams is ſituated on the river Rib, and was part of the poſſeſſions of the Bauds; from whom it came to the Nuce family. Thomas Nuce, Eſq., ſold it to William Fenn of Harrow on the Hill. Between Ware and Standon is Fanham-hall, the ſeat of John Currie, Eſq.; and Youngſbury, that of Daniel Giles, Eſq.

The rectory of Standon was appropriated to the perpetual uſe of the knights templars; upon the diſſolution of that order it came to the crown, from whence it was conveyed to Ralph Sadler, Eſq., and by deſcent came to Lord Aſton. The vicarage is rated in the king's books at 13*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, and the impropriators of the parſonage are the patrons. The church is ſituated near the town, in the deanery of Braughing, in the dioceſe of London: it conſiſts of three aiſles; the chancel is raiſed ſeven ſteps above the floor of the church; and the place for the communion-table is raiſed three ſteps above the pavement of the chancel. A ſquare tower is at the eaſt end of the ſouth aiſle, which contains five bells, and a ſpire. Here are ſome benefactions: George Crouch, of London, gave, in the reign of Henry VIII., 10*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* partly for repairs of the road, and partly for poor maids at their marriage; Ralph Sadler gave 5*l.* per annum to the poor; Thomas Fiſher in 1612 gave an eſtate and land amounting to 45*l.* per annum, 20*l.* of it to the ſchool in Standon, 10*l.* of it in bread for the poor, 5*l.* of it to purchaſe books, &c. for the ſcholars, and the other 10*l.* to Chriſt's Hoſpital; and he gave 50*s.* to the miniſter and inhabitants to diſtribute among the poor: David Thomas, a Welſhman, gave the rent of two acres of land in Puckeridge, and 70*l.* in money, to be diſtributed among the poor. Here are alſo ſome other ſmaller donations. In the town is a neat bridge over the Rib, and another at Wadeſmill; both of which were erected at the charge of the county.

Puckeridge is a hamlet, ſituated in Ermine-ſtreet, in the pariſhes of Standon and Braughing, and lies partly in the manor of Standon, and partly in that of Milkley; it is not chargeable of itſelf, but every houſe is rated to the pariſh where it ſtands. In Camden's Britannia it is called Pulcher church. Edward I. granted a market and fair to this hamlet.

WESTMILL.

WESTMILL.

THIS pariſh is ſituated about two miles diſtance from Braughing towards the north upon the river Rib; and was ſo called from three mills which ſtood upon the brook, and remained here at the time that the great ſurvey was made by order of the Conqueror. In the whole, it was at that time worth 17*l.* per annum; and in the time of the Confeſſor it was worth 20*l.* Anſchitil held it of Robert de Olgi, one of the dukes who accompanied William the Conqueror to this country, who rewarded him with this manor. It was afterwards conveyed to John de Moyne, who granted to the prior and the canons of the church of the Holy Trinity this eſtate of Weſtmill, and all the tithes of the ſame. Hugh de Marines alſo endowed this church with lands here. Sir Thomas de Lukenor was lord of the manor of Weſtmill, and his ſon ſucceeded him. King Edward III. granted to the abbots and monks of the abbey of St. Mary de Graces, near the town of London, this manor of Weſtmill, with others, which the Counteſs of Pembroke held before of the king for her life. In this abbey it remained till the diſſolution, when it was granted to Sir Thomas Audley, Knight, with all appurtenances and advowſons belonging to their other eſtates in Weſtmill, &c. From him it paſſed as the manor of Braughing to Thomas Lord Howard, who afterwards ſold it to John Brograve, Eſq., and heirs, with the advowſon of the church, in whoſe family it remained.

The rectory is rated in the king's books at 20*l.* per annum; the patronage is in the lords of the manor. The church is ſituated in a vale near the town, in the deanery of Baldock, in the dioceſe of Lincoln; at the weſt end of the church is a ſquare tower, containing four bells, with a ſhort ſpire erected upon it. Mrs. Mary Kent gave 20*l.* here to have the intereſt diſtributed among the poor.

HERTFORD HUNDRED.

THIS hundred, which derives the name from the town of Hertford, is bounded on the north and weſt by Broadwater hundred, on the eaſt by that of Braughing, and the county of Eſſex; and on the ſouth by the county of Middleſex. It contains theſe pariſhes, or hamlets, which are divided between two high conſtables; one has for his

diviſion, St. John's, Brickendon, and Little Amwell, Benjehoe, Stapleford, Hertingfordbury, and Tewing. The juſtices uſually hold their ſeſſions for this diviſion at Hertford; but the borough includes the town of Hertford, and part of Brickendon, with the pariſh of St. John, and is a liberty by itſelf, exempt from the reſt of the hundred, as it chooſes its own officers. The other high conſtable has in his diviſion the pariſhes of Eſingdon, Eaſt Berkhamſtead, Beyford, Great Amwell, Thele, or St. Margaret's Hoddeſdon, Broxborne, Wormley, and Cheſhunt: the juſtices generally hold their ſeſſions in Hoddeſdon for this diviſion. This hundred is all encloſed, and abounds much with wood.

HERTFORD.

THIS town was a place of ſome conſequence in the time of the ancient Britons, who called it Duro-Cobriva, which in their language ſignifies a red ford, from the gravelly red at the ford. Briva, which was added to many places, ſignifies a bridge or paſſage. It is ſituated upon the river Lea. The Saxons afterwards called it Herudford. He being an article in their language, ſignifying the; Rudford at length by contraction became Hertford. In the beginning of the Heptarchy this town was accounted one of the principal cities in the kingdom of the Eaſt Saxons, where the kings of that province often kept their courts; and in the year 673 a parliamentary council was held here. King Egbert having ſubdued his neighbouring princes, made himſelf the firſt Engliſh monarch, and denominated this province from the town, and made it the ſhire or county town. The Danes in their invaſion ſailed up to this place in the time of Alfred, and made great havoc, plundering the inhabitants, and deſtroying the houſes. In the time of the Confeſſor this town was a borough, and was rated at ten hides. William the Conqueror gave the cuſtody of the caſtle of Hertford to Peter de Valoines, which had been built in the reign of Alfred. This caſtle was a place of great celebrity, and had governors of it appointed by the king. The king of France was here kept priſoner in the reign of Edward III. King Henry VI. kept his Eaſter here in the year 1429. In Henry VIII.'s time it was a pleaſant ſeat, with a river running at the north ſide of it; with a large court-yard, and a park rather more than a mile in compaſs.

The town of Hertford is built in form of the letter Y, between the two horns of which

which the caſtle is built. An elegant town-hall has been lately erected; and here is alſo a county gaol. In the caſtle, the county ſeſſions are held. The town had formerly five churches, which are now reduced to two, All Saints and St. Andrew's. Here is a free grammar-ſchool, founded in the reign of James I. by Richard Hale, Eſq., and endowed with 40*l.* a year: the corporation are governors of it; but the maſter is appointed by the heirs or repreſentatives of Mr. Hale. The houſe is a handſome ſtructure, and was built ſome years ago. Here are alſo three charity-ſchools; one erected by the inhabitants for forty boys, who are clothed and taught by ſubſcription, another for twenty-five children, and a third for twenty children: both the latter are ſupported by the donations of private perſons. The chief commodities of Hertford are wheat, malt, and wool; an immenſe quantity of malt is ſent every week to London by means of the river Lea. The magnificence of Hertford is, however, conſiderably diminiſhed, ſince one of the north roads from London, which paſſed through it, was turned through the town of Ware. Hertford ſends two members to parliament; has a weekly market on Saturday, and four annual fairs, the Saturday fortnight before Eaſter, the 12th of May, the 5th of July, and the 8th of November, all for the ſale of horſes and cattle. On the petition of the burgeſſes and bailiff, in Henry V.'s reign, to be excuſed on account of their poverty, the privilege of ſending members to parliament was diſcontinued till the twenty-ſecond year of James I.'s reign. In Henry VII.'s reign the ſtandard of weights and meaſures was fixed here, and Queen Mary made it a corporation by the name of bailiffs and burgeſſes; and by her charter, the number of burgeſſes was to have been ſixteen. In the twenty-fifth and thirty-fifth of Elizabeth, Michaelmas term was held here on account of the plague which raged in London. At preſent the town is governed by a mayor, high ſteward, who is generally a nobleman, a recorder, nine aldermen, a town clerk, chamberlain, ten capital burgeſſes, and ſixteen aſſiſtants, with two ſerjeants at mace.

The priory of Benedictine monks was formerly ſubordinate to the abbey of St. Alban's, erected about the latter end of the Conqueror's reign by Ralph of Limeſic, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. At the diſſolution its revenues amounted to 72*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* per annum: upon its coming to the crown, Henry VIII. granted it to Anthony Denny, Eſq., and his heirs; from them it came to Martin Trott, Eſq.; then to Richard Willis, Eſq., of Horningſey, in Cambridgeſhire. Thomas Willis

rebuilt the church in 1629, and dedicated it to St. John the Baptiſt; it was afterwards demoliſhed by order of the Biſhop of Lincoln.

The pariſh of All Saints, in the deanery of Hertford and dioceſe of Lincoln, is a vicarage, and valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum; Sir John Harriſon, patron of the church of St. John, united them into one, and for that purpoſe gave all the tithes of the pariſh of St. John, except his own lands; to which the king and his heirs preſent alternately. Mr. Gabriel Barber purchaſed the impropriation of the tithes of Brickendon, and annexed them to this church; ſo that it is now a vicarage endowed. The church is built on the ſouth ſide of the eaſt end of the town, containing two aiſles, with a newer building on the north ſide of the chancel at the eaſt end, which makes it form the figure of a croſs. A ſmall ſquare tower adjoins the weſt end, and contains eight bells. It has a lofty ſpire, and the church contains an organ. The governors of Chriſt's Hoſpital have erected a gallery for the accommodation of two hundred of their children who may be ſick or ſupernumerary. There is a gallery for the mayor and corporation.

The pariſh of St. Andrew is a rectory, the church of which is dedicated to St. Andrew, ſituated between St. Andrew's Street and the river Lea, at the north-weſt end of the town; containing a body and two ſmall aiſles, with a chancel of a low building; at the weſt end is a ſquare tower, covered with lead, and a ſhort ſpire upon it. In the tower are four bells. The rectory, with the chapel of St. Mary the Virgin, is rated at the yearly value of 8*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*: the patronage is in the dutchy of Lancaſter. St. Mary's church ſtood near the old croſs, between the ſtreet leading to Cowbridge and St. Mary's Street, in the back lane which leads to the river Lea. The rectory of St. Nicholas was valued at 76*l.* per annum in the king's books. The dutchy of Lancaſter had the patronage, but it is now annexed to St. Andrew's pariſh. The church ſtood in St. Nicholas' Street. The old timber bridge, called Cowbridge, was pulled down, and rebuilt in 1676 by the inhabitants of the borough. The governors of Chriſt's Hoſpital erected a houſe in the town for the reception of thoſe children whom they could not maintain for want of room, and who were ſent here for the benefit of air. Edward VI. converted the houſe of Grey Friars in London to this hoſpital.

The manor of Brickendon is ſo called from the hill where the manor-houſe is ſituated in the pariſh of All Saints. King Edward the Confeſſor gave it to the canons

of the church of Waltham, who were poſſeſſed of it in the time of William the Conqueror. In the Confeſſor's reign it was valued at 8*l.* per annum. It remained in that monaſtery till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. Edward VI. granted it to John Aleyne, who ſold it to Sir Stephen Soame, Knight; from this family it came to Edward Clark, citizen of London, knighted in the reign of William and Mary. It is now the ſeat of —— Morgan, Eſq., and is ſituated in a large park, well furniſhed with wood and water.

The manor of Amwell Parva was ſo called from Amwell ſpring, and is now a member of St. Andrew's pariſh. This ſpring is the head of what is Middleton's cut, and now called the New River. William the Conqueror gave this manor to Ralph de Limſey; it was then worth 14*l.* 10*s.*, and in the reign of the Confeſſor 18*l.* In Domeſday-book there was only one manor; but it was divided afterwards, and part of it given to Waltham church, the other part to the abbot and monks of St. Peter's church, Weſtminſter. The church of Waltham held this part till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. The inhabitants then having no church, reſorted to that of All Saints, of which it has ever ſince been reputed a part or hamlet. Henry VIII. gave this manor to Leonard Chamberlain, Eſq., and Richard Andrews, Gent. In Edward VI.'s reign John Knighton purchaſed it, from whom it deſcended to Sir George Knighton; from them it came to John Gardiner, Eſq.; and from this family, by marriage, to Henry Dunſter, Eſq., in 1666.

Balls is a noble ſeat, ſituated on the weſt ſide of the road leading from Hertford to Hoddeſdon, on a hill half a mile from the town in Amwell; it is ſo called from Simon de Ball, one of the burgeſſes who ſerved in parliament in Edward I.'s reign, and was then owner of this place; from whom it came to William Henmarſh, who had it in the time of Queen Elizabeth; his daughter marrying Richard Willis, Eſq., of Horningſey, this ſeat came into his poſſeſſion: his ſon, Thomas, ſold it to John Harriſon, Eſq. This ſeat is now the property of Marquis Townſhend.

The Sele is another hamlet which belongs to the pariſh of St. Andrew; and at the time of the Conqueſt was given to Goisfrede de Beck, a valiant Norman; it was at that time worth only 10*s.* Hugh de la Sele was lord of it in Edward I.'s reign; from him it probably took the name. In Henry VI.'s time it was in Philip Boteler, in whoſe family it has continued.

Blakemere was another hamlet in Domeſday-book belonging to this pariſh. In the Confeſſor's reign it was worth 15*s.* It derived the name from its ſituation upon

a bleak moor or hill, which Sir Stephen Sleany purchaſed in Elizabeth's reign. It continued in this family till it determined in two daughters, one of whom was Mary, who married —— Hitchcock, who purchaſed the moiety of the other ſiſter; he left one daughter, married to —— Elwes, merchant, of London, in whoſe poſſeſſion it remained.

King Charles gave to the mayor and burgeſſes 100*l.* for the uſe of the corporation; Thomas Tooke, Eſq., gave 50*l.* for the purpoſe of bringing a ſpring of water to the conduit in the market-place; William Leman, Eſq., gave 100*l.* to pay the debts of the corporation; and Sir Thomas Byde, Knight, gave 50*l.* for the ſame; Sir Charles Cæſar 100*l.*; John Clarke 20*l.*; Dr. Bernard Hale gave 100*l.* to maintain ſeven ſcholars in Peterhouſe, Cambridge, for ſeven years, out of the free-ſchool which Richard Hale had erected. John Browne dying inteſtate, the prerogative court ordered 600*l.* to be laid out in charitable uſes; it was applied to the poor of Hertford. Sir John Harriſon gave 100*l.* to the poor. There are many other benefactions.

The Eaſt India College within two miles of Hertford is worthy notice.

BENGEO, OR BENEHOO.

THIS place is ſituated about a mile diſtant from Hertford towards the north-eaſt, bounded on the eaſt by the river Rib, on the ſouth by the Lea, and on the north-weſt by the Beane; the Saxon word hoo ſignifies water; at the Conqueſt it was divided amongſt different Normans. It is not improbable that the town of Stapleford was part of this pariſh at that time. Hugh de Bellocampo, or Hugh Beauchamp, who came into England with the Conqueror, was rewarded with this manor. His brother ſold it in 1092 to John, prior of Bermondſey, by the name of the manor of Richmond, but now called Bengeo, for 160 marks. Reynald de Tannay gave the monks of Bermondſey the church of Bengeo in 1156. It remained in that monaſtery till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown, where it continued till Queen Elizabeth granted it to Francis Earl of Huntingdon; and from that time it paſſed with the manor to the ſame perſons as the manor of Ware, until it came to Sir Thomas Byde.

The manor of Revel's-hall was ſo called from John Revel, who held it in Henry II.'s time: he ſold it afterwards to John Lovetoft, who granted and confirmed to Geoffrey de Beninghoe all the lands, &c., which Thomas, the ſon of Arnold,

Arnold, of Herlawe, grandfather of Geoffrey, whoſe heir he was, held of the gift of John Revel, in Beninghoe, of the fee of Robert De Vere, Earl of Oxford. William Cadwell, or Coventry, was in poſſeſſion of it in the reign of Queen Mary and in that of Elizabeth. Joan, his heireſs, married Sir George Knighton, of Beyford, in this county; his ſon had it in 1614, and after that gave it to Henry Gardiner, Eſq.; his daughter married Henry Dunſter, Eſq., who thus came into poſſeſſion of it; he dying, left it to his wife.

The manor of Temple Chelſin was ſo named, becauſe it was part of the ancient poſſeſſions of the knights templars. In Edward I.'s reign the maſter of that order claimed by the grant of Henry III. large liberties here: but the manor falling to the crown in the reign of Henry VIII. upon the diſſolution of monaſteries, that king, in conſideration of 843*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* granted it to Sir Ralph Sadlier, Knight, one of his ſecretaries of ſtate, with that of Temple Dynneſly. This family ſold it to Sir Robert Boteler, of Wattenwood-hall, in the reign of James I. His daughter marrying John Bellaſis, Eſq., they both held a court here in 1663. He ſold it to Sir John Gore, Knight, who had married the eldeſt daughter of Sir John Boteler; after having enjoyed it about fifty years, he ſold it to Sir Thomas Rolt, Knight, who had been preſident of the Eaſt India Company at Surat, and was ſheriff of the county in 1695.

The vicarage in Henry VIII.'s reign was valued in 7*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* per annum, and the lords of the manor of Bengeo are the patrons. The church is ſituated upon a great hill, overlooking the town of Hertford, in the deanery of Hertford, in the dioceſe of Lincoln; it is tiled, and at the weſt end is a ſmall erection of wood, wherein are two ſmall bells.

STAPLEFORD.

THIS pariſh lies about two miles diſtant from Bengeo church, on the north; and in the Conqueror's time was part of the pariſh. The word ſtaple ſignifies a ſafe port, it being a place where merchants met to ſell and buy articles of the land from the great. In the time of Henry II. John Monk, lord of the manor, gave 60 acres of land, in Stapleford, to the church of St. Alban's. In Edward I.'s reign Hugh Bardolph was lord of the manor, and Roger Aiguillon preſented to the church. The

manor

manor was afterwards divided between two daughters and coheireſſes of the Bardolph family; one of whom married Patchington, from whom her ſhare was called Patchington; and the other ſiſter's part was termed Waterford from its ſituation. Both manors were afterwards conveyed to Sir John Say, Knight, and Thomas Leventhorp, Eſq., who, in Edward IV.'s reign, granted them to George Newport, Eſq., ſon and heir of William Newport, Eſq., and Hugh Clayton, who, in the ſame year, conveyed them to Sir John Say and others. The manor of Waterford was ſhortly after granted to Thomas Mundene, whoſe eldeſt daughter married Thomas Shotbolt, Eſq., who thus became poſſeſſed of it; from this family it came to George Bromley, who conveyed it to his younger children, who ſold it in the year 1696 to Thomas Feltham, of Ware Weſtmill; upon whoſe death it came to John Feltham, his ſon and heir. The manor of Patchington came to Sir John Boteler, Knight. In the time of Henry VII. it paſſed into the family of Worthall, and continued with them till it came to Philip Boteler, Eſq.

Gobions is another manor here, ſo called from Sir Richard Gobion, Knight, who was lord of it in the reign of King Stephen; from whom it came to Sir Anſel Gobion, Knight, who held it in the time of Henry II. It continued with them till Hawiſe, daughter of Richard Gobion, marrying Ralph Boteler, it came into his poſſeſſion. She died in Edward III.'s reign; and in that family it remained. In Henry VII.'s reign the father of Sir Thomas More had it. Henry VIII. ſeized it, with Sir Thomas's other eſtates; it has ſince paſſed through various hands, and was lately the property of John Hunter, Eſq.

The rectory was valued at 8*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* in Henry VIII.'s reign. The church is ſmall, having a wooden building at the weſt end, in which are two ſmall bells. It is ſituated in a vale near the river Beane, in the deanery of Hertford, in the dioceſe of Lincoln.

HERTINGFORDBURY.

THIS pariſh lies about three miles diſtant from Stapleford to the weſt, and about a mile from Hertford. At the time of the ſurvey Ralph Baniard, a Norman lord, had it: it was then worth 8*l.* a year; and in the time of the Confeſſor 10*l.* The name is derived from the Saxon, and ſignifies a paſſage through the river in the meads to a ſeat near Hertford. William Baniard conſpiring againſt Henry I., was

put

put to death, and his eſtate came to the crown from his attainder. That king granted it to Peter de Valoines, who was his ſteward. His deſcendant, Peter, left ſeveral daughters, one of whom, Chriſtiana, married William de Mandeville; and after his death, Peter de Maine, to whoſe ſhare this manor fell. It next came to Audemar de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, who attending Queen Iſabella into France, was there murdered for having aſſiſted in the death of the Earl of Lancaſter: leaving no iſſue, this lordſhip came to Elizabeth Comyn of Scotland, one of his couſins and heirs, to whom it was aſſigned in Edward II.'s reign. She married Richard Talbot, of Gooderich caſtle. Soon after it returned to the king again; and he granted it to Reginald Grey, of Wilton, who was a knight, and ſerved in ſeveral parliaments in the time of Edward III. It next came to his ſon, Henry de Grey, and then devolved again to the crown; from whence it was conveyed to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaſter; and from that time it continued in that dutchy till it came into the poſſeſſion of Charles I., who granted to William Earl of Saliſbury this manor and appurtenances; this earl ſhortly after conveyed it to Chriſtopher Vernon, Eſq., of the exchequer. It remained in this family till 1690, when it was ſold to James Selby, Eſq., of the Inner Temple. It is in the liberty of the dutchy of Lancaſter.

The manor of Roxford was, in the time of the Conqueror, granted by that king to Goisfrede de Beck. In the time of the Confeſſor it was worth 20*s*. It is held of the manor of Ware by the yearly rent of a roſe, and was part of the poſſeſſions of Sir John Ferrars, Knight, in 1603, but was afterwards ſold to Phineas Andrews, Gent., who conveyed it to Mr. Balam, of Hoddeſdon, whoſe ſon alienated it to Mr. Charlicomb about the year 1660, deputy clerk of the peace at Weſtminſter, who had one daughter, married to Patrick Crawford, of Gray's Inn; by which marriage he became the poſſeſſor of it. Here was formerly a ſmall park, about a mile in compaſs, part of the revenue of the caſtle of Hertford, belonging to the dutchy of Lancaſter, which continued in it till Charles I. conveyed it to William Earl of Saliſbury, who granted it to Sir William Harrington, Knight, and he converted the lodge into a good houſe, in which he ſome time lived; and at his death it was ſold to Thomas Keightley, ſheriff of the county in 1651. His grandſon ſold the eſtate to John Culling, Eſq., of London. John, his ſon, built a good houſe here, in which he reſided. From this family it came to the Spencers; and then was purchaſed by the Bakers, of Bayford-bury.

Epicaumpe

Epicaumpe was another ſmall manor, which Leming had in the time of King Richard I.

The rectory of Hertingfordbury was rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 12*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*: the king is patron in right of the dutchy of Lancaſter. The chancellor of that dutchy of courſe preſents in his behalf. There are about fifty-five acres of glebe land. The preſent incumbent is the Rev. Dr. Hook. The church is ſituated upon riſing ground, on the eaſt ſide near the river Mimeram; it is covered with lead, and has a ſquare tower annexed to the weſt end, with a ſmall ſteeple in the middle; there are five bells belonging to it. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. The village of Hertingfordbury is very pleaſant, and contains ſome excellent houſes; one of which was purchaſed by Earl Cowper ſome years ſince of Lady Hughes.

TEWING.

NORTH-WEST of the laſt pariſh is Tewing, ſituated upon the ſame river; it was formerly part of the lands belonging to St. Alban's abbey; but Peter de Valoines had it at the time of the Conqueſt: it was then worth 60*s.* per annum; in the Confeſſor's time 4*l.* From this family it came to the poſſeſſion of Alexander de Swexford, canon of St. Paul's; he gave it to the priory of St. Bartholomew, near Weſt Smithfield, in London, with the advowſon of the church; at that time it was held by Godfrey de Teywing. This was about the reign of Henry III. Upon the diſſolution, to which period it remained in that monaſtery, Henry VIII. granted it to John Cock, Eſq., of Broxborne, in this county. Frances, eldeſt daughter of his ſon Henry, ſold the manor to Richard Hale, Eſq., in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and his younger ſon, who poſſeſſed it as a gift from his father, ſold it to William Cecil, Earl of Saliſbury. This nobleman ſettled the eſtate on William, his third ſon, of whoſe grandſon it was purchaſed by James Fleet, Eſq., ſon of Sir John Fleet, lord mayor of London. He died in 1733, and left it to his widow during her life. She married four huſbands; her laſt was Lieutenant-colonel Hugh Macquiere, whom ſhe ſurvived, and who kept her in cloſe confinement during twenty years in an apartment in her houſe. She died in 1789. The reverſion of the manor was ſold previous to her death about ten years by the executors of Mr. Fleet to William Earl Cowper, in whoſe family it ſtill remains.

Tewing-

Tewing-houſe was rebuilt in a very magnificent ſtyle by General Sabine, ſecond huſband of the widow juſt mentioned, who adorned it with pictures of the Duke of Marlborough's battles, in which he bore a conſiderable ſhare. It has paſſed from the general's grandſon to Robert Mackay, Eſq.; and from him to Charles Schrieber. He died in 1800, and his ſon diſpoſed of it to Earl Cowper, the preſent poſſeſſor. The old manor-houſe of Tewing ſtands at the bottom of a hill, about 300 yards from the church to the ſouth-weſt, on the north ſide of the river Maran. Henry Cowper, Eſq., clerk of the houſe of lords, has erected a very handſome new houſe here, the grounds of which are pleaſing.

Marden, another ancient ſeat here, from the Mimeram or Maran, was in poſſeſſion of the Newhurſts ſome ages ſince; it then came to the North family. Hugh North erected a good houſe. His two daughters ſold it to Edmund Field, Eſq., in Charles II.'s time, who afterwards granted it to Edward Warren, Eſq. Richard Warren's grandſon ſold it to Robert Mackay, Eſq., who pulled down the old manſion, and built a handſome new houſe, which now alſo belongs to Earl Cowper.

The rectory is rated at 14*l.* per annum in the king's books. The church ſtands about the middle of the town, in the deanery of Hertford, and dioceſe of London, with a ſquare tower on it and a ſpire, with five bells.

ESSENDON.

THIS pariſh is omitted in Domeſday-book, and probably had its name from a hill on which the church is erected. It was then moſt likely waſte ground, and was part of the revenue of the crown. Henry I. gave ſome part of it to St. Alban's church, and the manor to Peter de Valoines. It reverted to the crown afterwards, and Henry III. gave it to William de Valence. After his death it returned to the crown; it was then called Bedwell, and remained there till Edward IV. granted it to Sir William Say, Knight; from whom it paſſed in the ſame manner as Bennington did, till it came again to the crown. Queen Elizabeth granted it to William Potter, who poſſeſſed it ſome time, but at length ſold the manor-houſe, now called Bedwell park, from an ancient park there, and part of the demeſnes, to Sir Henry Atkins, Knight; from whom it came to his lady; and after her deceaſe to Thomas Atkins, Eſq., who

adorned the ſeat, and beautified the gardens. William Potter afterwards ſold the other part to William Prieſtley, Eſq., ſheriff of the county in Charles I.'s reign. His ſon, in Charles II.'s time, had a ſeat here, called Wild-hall, now Camfield-place, of which the Rev. William Brown is owner. William Potter conveyed the laſt part of his manor of Bedwell to Thomas Middleton, Eſq., who ſold it to the Earl of Saliſbury. It lies in the dutchy of Lancaſter.

The rectory was valued in the king's books at 18*l.* per annum: the Marquis of Saliſbury is patron. The church is ſituated on a hill, in the deanery of Hertford, and dioceſe of Lincoln. It has a ſquare tower and ſhort ſpire, with five bells.

BERKHAMSTEAD PARVA.

THIS pariſh is alſo called Eaſt Berkhamſtead, to diſtinguiſh it from that of Great or Weſt Berkhamſtead; it is ſituated about two miles from Eſſingdon to the eaſt; and in the Conqueror's time was in the poſſeſſion of Hardwin de Scalers. It was worth 5*l.* at the time of the ſurvey. From this family it came in King John's time to the poſſeſſion of Foulke Brent, a Norman by birth, of mean extraction, but greatly in favour of the king. By his death the manor eſcheated to the King Henry III., who gave to Nicholas de Molis all Brent's poſſeſſions. It continued in this family till Iſabella, daughter of John de Molis, who married William de Botreaux, brought this to him. He died in the reign of Edward III. William, his grandſon, diſpoſed of theſe lands to John Norbury, Eſq., to whom Henry IV. granted leave to make a park here, and then conveyed it to Sir John Say, Knight; from whom it paſſed in a way ſimilar to that of the manor of Bennington. Henry VIII. granted to Antony Denny the manors of Bedwell and Berkhamſtead. This manor continued in the crown till the end of Elizabeth's reign, when ſhe granted to Sir Edward Denny and his heirs all the lands, &c., here held by the Marchioneſs of Exeter, who had lately been attainted of high treaſon. He ſold it to Humphrey Weld, Eſq., citizen and alderman of London. His wife alienated it to Phineas Andrews, Gent., in 1645, who ſold it ten years afterwards to George Nevill, of Staple Inn. His daughter and heireſs married Cromwell Fleetwood, ſecond ſon of Charles Fleetwood, Eſq., of Newington-green; ſhe died in 1691. It came afterwards to the Marquis of Saliſbury.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, of which the Marquis of Saliſbury is patron. The church is ſituated in the deanery of Hertford and dioceſe of Lincoln, upon a hill; it contains an aiſle, with a chancel at the eaſt end.

BEGESFORD, OR BEYFORD.

TOSTI Earl of Northumberland was lord of this manor in the Confeſſor's time. Upon his death it came to William the Conqueror. It continued in the crown till the reign of Henry I., who gave two parts of the tithes of Eſſingdon and Beyford to the church of St. Alban's, and the manor to Peter de Valoines. The manor reverted to the crown again in Edward I.'s time. William de Valoines had it again for life during Henry III.'s reign. In Edward III.'s reign William de Scroop was lord of the manor. In Edward IV.'s reign John Knighton had it; from whom it came to Sir George Knighton, who died in 1613, leaving Anne his ſole daughter and heireſs, who married Sir John Ferrars, Knight, of Sunſburne. Thomas Knighton ſold the manor to John Mayho, Eſq., citizen of London. This manor lies within the dutchy of Lancaſter.

The rectory is part of that of Eſſingdon, and the rector of that place provides a curate to officiate. The church is ſituated on a hill, having two aiſles, covered with tiles.

AMWELL MAGNA.

THIS pariſh and Little Amwell made but one in the reign of the Conqueror. They were probably divided when Little Amwell was given to Waltham-abbey, and this to the church of St. Peter's, Weſtminſter. This monaſtery held it till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. Sir Edward Denny had it in the reign of Edward VI.; in which family it remained till the beginning of the reign of James I., when Thomas Hobbes, of Gray's Inn, purchaſed it. His daughter, Suſanna, ſucceeded him in the manor; ſhe married John Fiennes, third ſon of William Fiennes, Viſcount Say and Sele, by whom ſhe had four ſons and four daughters: he ſold the reverſion of this manor to Thomas Filmer, Eſq., who died in 1696.

THE HAMLET OF HALEY.

THIS hamlet was ſituated in this pariſh, and was part of the poſſeſſions of Goiſfred de Beck; when he received it, it was worth 10*s.* a year, and in the Confeſſor's time 4*l.* It was part of the poſſeſſions of John Sprainger, M. D., who died in 1685: his daughter ſold it to James King, brewer, of Whitechapel. The vicarage is very ſmall, and not rated in the king's books. Henry VIII., the patron, made a compoſition with the vicar, that he and his ſucceſſors ſhould have five marks a year in lieu of tithes, beſides the ſmall tithes and glebe land, which an hundred years ſince were worth 20*l.* per annum. The church ſtands upon the ſide of a hill, and contains one aiſle, with a ſmall tower, in which are three bells. Here are ſome few charitable donations.

THELE, OR ST. MARGARET'S.

ABOUT half a mile from Amwell is a pariſh near the river Lea, called Thele formerly, but now St. Margaret's, which was probably waſte ground in the time of the Conqueror, as it is omitted in Domeſday-book. In this pariſh the manor bears the name of the town, and was part of the poſſeſſions of John Lovetoft in the reign of Edward I. Shortly after it came to Thomas Eugaine in the reign of Edward III. His ſiſters were his heireſſes, and ſhared the lands between them. Upon the partition this land came to Joice, wife of John Goldington, who held it in her right. Robert, who gave it the name of Goldington, preſented it to the monaſtery of Merton, in Surry; and upon the diſſolution it came to the crown, when Henry VIII. granted it to Edward Baeſh, Eſq. In this family it remained till it was ſold to Edward Laurence, Eſq., who died in 1657. After his ſon's death the manor was ſold to Henry Weſtrow, Eſq., whoſe widow died ſeiſed of it in 1689, when it was ſold to Francis Roſton, Eſq. Here was formerly a college, which at the diſſolution came to the crown, and the revenue was divided among different perſons.

The church is a donative.

HODDESDON.

THIS chapelry ſtands on a ſmall hill, which gives the name to it, and is ſituated about two miles from St. Margaret's towards the weſt, in the pariſhes of Amwell and Broxbourn. The daughter of Ralph Tailgeboſch poſſeſſed it in the time of the Conqueror. In the time of the Confeſſor it was worth 6*l*. It was then in the hundred of Braughing; but before the time of Edward I. it was laid to the hundred of Hertford. At that period Stephen de Braſſingbourne was lord of it; this family embattled and fortified the manor-houſe. Walter de Norwich appears to have been the next poſſeſſor of it; he was three times lord-treaſurer in the reigns of Edward II. and III. and twice chief baron of the exchequer. In the reign of Henry VII. Sir William Say was the poſſeſſor; and after it had devolved to his daughter Mary, married to Henry Bourchier, Earl of Eſſex, King Henry VIII. granted a weekly market, and a fair of three days annually. The market-houſe is a very curious building of wood, ſupported on arches and pillars. This manor was ſeized by the crown on the attainder of Lord Parre; and Queen Elizabeth afterwards granted it to Robert Cecil, Earl of Saliſbury; his deſcendant, the preſent Marquis, is now the proprietor. The chapel of Hoddeſdon is a neat brick building, erected about twenty years ago. Queen Elizabeth granted here a free grammar-ſchool. Near the market-houſe is a conduit for water, which was built by the Rawdons of this town, who bequeathed for its repairs a certain annual ſum. The number of inhabitants amounts to 1227. The buildings are diſpoſed on the ſides of the high road, and form a handſome ſtreet; it is a thoroughfare road, and is about 17 miles from London. There is ſtill an annual fair on the 29th of July.

The manor of Baſe was the ancient ſeat of Sir William Say, who was lord of it in the time of Edward IV.; and from that time it has paſſed, with the manor of Hoddeſdon, to the ſame lords.

BROXBOURN.

THIS pariſh was anciently called Brookſbourn from the river. In the time of the Conqueſt, Adelida, the wife of Hugh de Granteſmeſnil, poſſeſſed it. In the reign of the Confeſſor it was worth 7*l*. Ivo, their ſon, gave it to Bermondſey-abbey, in

Surry; but the grant was reaſſumed by Robert Blanchmaine, Earl of Leiceſter, who had married Ivo's daughter, and, with the advowſon, granted to the knights hoſpitallers of St. John of Jeruſalem, who kept poſſeſſion of it till their diſſolution, but granted the church to the biſhops of London. Henry VIII. ſold the manor of Broxbourn and appurtenances to John Cock, Eſq., ſheriff of this county and Eſſex, in the time of Edward VI. His ſon was knighted by Elizabeth, and left a daughter married to Sir Richard Oxenbridge, who inherited it. Their daughter married Sir John Monſon, Knight of the Bath, in Charles I.'s time, and in his family it has continued till Lord Monſon died; it now belongs to Jacob Boſanquet, Eſq., banker, and director of the Eaſt India Company.

The church is appropriated to the peculiar uſe of the Biſhop of London, who has granted an augmentation of 30*l.* per annum to the vicar and his ſucceſſors. The vicarage is rated at 12*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and the Biſhop of London is patron. The church is ſituated between the great road and the river Lea, and contains three aiſles. It was probably built in the time of Henry VI. It has an octagonal ſpire, connecting with the chancel at the end of each angle. There are ſeveral monuments of the Monſon family and others. Sir William Say built the chapel in the reign of Henry VIII., the workmanſhip of which is in a ſuperior ſtyle.

Broxbourn-bury is the ſeat of Jacob Boſanquet, Eſq., and was formerly that of Lord Monſon. It has been very much improved within a few years in the modern ſtyle, having a new front, and other ornamental additions. It is a ſpacious building, in the middle of an agreeable park, with a very neat porter's lodge, lately built, belonging to it. Here Sir Henry Cock entertained King James I. in his way from Scotland.

WORMLEY.

ABOUT a mile from Broxbourn this pariſh is ſeen: the word ſignifies a land abounding in worms. It was part of the revenue of Edward the Confeſſor, who gave it to the canons of Waltham Holy-croſs; and they enjoyed it at the time of the Conqueſt. It was worth 5*l.* at the time of the Confeſſor. The church of Waltham poſſeſſed it till the time of the diſſolution, when Henry VIII. granted it to Edward North, Eſq., and his heirs. It belongs now to Oliver Cromwell, Eſq., of Cheſhunt; but is rented by Sir Abraham Hume, Bart., of Wormley-bury,

bury, whoſe father was created a baronet in 1769, and ſucceeded his brother in the eſtate. The manſion is a ſolid building of brick, with a portico, ſuſtained on four ſtone columns, of the compoſite order. The grounds, not extenſive, are very pleaſant, and a Chineſe bridge is built over a beautiful piece of water.

Wormley church is a ſmall building, conſiſting only of a nave and chancel; it is a rectory valued at 10*l.* 12*s.* 3½*d.* in the king's books. The lords of the manor are patrons.

The manor of Otes has paſſed with that of Broxbourn to the ſame lords, the Saliſbury family. This pariſh and Broxbourn are peculiars, and exempt from the juriſdiction of the biſhop of the dioceſe. Here are a few charitable donations. William Purvey, Eſq., gave to the rector 20*l.* per annum, and to the poor 100*l.*

CHESHUNT.

IN ancient records this pariſh was called Ceſtrehunt, from ſome caſtle, in all probability, erected here by the Romans. Cheſton is another name given to it from cheſnut-trees which abounded here; moſt of the houſes in the Conqueror's time were built of that wood. Earl Alan was lord of it at that time. The pariſh is very extenſive, and is an agreeable village, extending chiefly along the ſides of the high road, but has many detached buildings. Several Roman coins were diſcovered here in 1724. Cheſhunt contains ſeveral manors, the greateſt of which was in the Earl Alan. Henry III. detached Cheſhunt and other lands, and gave them to the queen's brother, Peter de Savoy, but afterwards gave them back to John Duke of Bretagne, the inheritor of Earl Alan of Richmond. His deſcendant gave up the earldom to John of Gaunt, who procured here a weekly market, which has been ſince diſuſed. From this time Cheſhunt deſcended with the honour of Richmond till Henry VIII. granted it to Henry Fitz-Roy, Duke of Richmond and Somerſet. Dying without iſſue, it reverted to the crown, when Edward VI. gave it to Sir John Gates and his heirs; but after his attainder Queen Mary granted it to Sir John Huddleſton, who, early in the reign of Elizabeth, ſold it to John Cock, Eſq., whoſe ſon, Sir Henry, had his grant renewed from James I.; from him it deſcended to the Monſon family, and is now the property of Sir George Beeſton Preſcott, Bart., George Preſcott, Eſq., having bought about it twenty years ſince.

The

The manor of Theobalds received its name from ſome perſons who poſſeſſed it, but was formerly called Cullinges. The houſe was built by William Lord Burleigh, lord treaſurer of England; it was an elegant piece of workmanſhip, ornamented with beautiful woods, &c. When King James came from Scotland he ſtaid here while Sir Robert Cecil was the owner of it. The king was ſo much delighted with it, that he gave the manor of Hatfield in exchange for it with Sir Robert Cecil, Lord Cecil: he frequently viſited this place, and enlarged the park, encloſing it with a brick wall, about ten miles in circumference, and at length died here in 1625; but in 1641 it was pulled down at the rebellion. King Charles II. granted the manor to George Duke of Albemarle; after his ſon's death it reverted to the crown. King William gave it to William Bentinck, Earl of Portland. In 1736 the deſcendant of John Duke of Montague ſold it to Mrs. Letitia Thornhill; from whom it came to the Cromwell family, deſcendants of Oliver the Protector. The original ſite of the manor was a ſmall houſe moated, the traces of which may be ſeen in the park of Sir George Preſcott. Queen Elizabeth viſited this ſeat continually in Burleigh's time, where ſhe was entertained with royal magnificence. Theobalds park is the ſeat of Sir George Preſcott, whoſe father purchaſed it in 1762 of the Duke of Portland. Mr. Preſcott built a handſome brick edifice on a riſing ground, about a mile to the north-weſt of the ſite of the old palace, at a ſhort diſtance from the New River, which runs through the grounds.

The manor of St. Andrew le Mott was part of the revenue of John Walſh, of Cheſhunt, who, in Henry VII.'s time, deviſed it by will to Sir John More, Knight, juſtice of the Common Pleas, John Joſcelin, and others; they granted it and the moiety of Mote to Henry Stafford, Earl of Wiltſhire, and heirs; they afterwards conveyed them to the crown. Henry VIII. gave them to Cardinal Wolſey, who reſided here in the manor-houſe; upon his death they reverted to the crown. Henry again gave them to Thomas Denny, Eſq., of this pariſh. John, his ſon, ſold them to George Dacres. The manor continued in this family till Sir Robert Dacres, Knight, ſold it to James Earl of Saliſbury; his ſon, the next earl, ſold it to Sir Edward Deſbovery, who died in poſſeſſion of it in 1694; his ſons ſold it to Sir John Shaw, Knight, of the county of Kent, in whoſe family it now remains. The population of Cheſhunt pariſh, as returned under the late Act, amounted to 3173 perſons.

In this pariſh ſtood a nunnery near the river Lea, which the canons of Cathele, or Catteley, in Lincolnſhire, originally poſſeſſed; it was founded by Peter de

de Belingey in the reign of King Stephen. Henry III. put nuns of the order of St. Benedict here inſtead of the former, and made them independent. At the ſuppreſſion their annual revenue amounted to 27*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, which Dugdale records only at 14*l.* 1*s.* Edward VI. granted it to Antony Denny, Eſq.; from that family it came to Robert Dewhurſt, Eſq., who gave it to Anne Gill; John Gill, her ſon, ſold it to John Mortimer; it has ſince come to the late Mrs. Blackwood, who lived here, and was famous for a good collection of paintings by the beſt maſters. The remains of the nunnery form part of a large manſion, which has been erected at various times, and contains ſome elegant rooms. The grounds are laid out with much taſte, and the river Lea forms a canal in front of the houſe.

The manor of the rectory was part of the poſſeſſions of the dean and chapter of Weſtminſter, who ſold it for 40*l.*, with the right of patronage and advowſon, to Antony Denny, Eſq., to hold of the king by fealty of 10*l.* per annum, to be paid to the court of firſt fruits. He conveyed the rectory to George Dacres. In James I.'s time Henry Atkins, M. D., had it from this family; he ſoon after ſold it to Sir Edward Scot; Sir Edward Deſbovery purchaſed it of him; in his family it remained; the advowſon was conveyed to the Earls of Saliſbury: it is now the property of the Marquis of Saliſbury.

The church of Cheſhunt is a handſome building, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was built in the time of Henry VI. by Nicolas Dixon, rector of the pariſh; it is rated at 26*l.* In the reign of James I. that king granted to the vicar 55*l.* per annum in lieu of tithes, which he laid to Theobalds park. The church is in the deanery of Braughing, in the dioceſe of London, and conſiſts of a body and aiſle on each ſide, a chancel at the eaſt end, and a tower at the weſt, with a ring of ſix bells. Here are ſeveral monuments worth the attention of the curious, and ſome benefactions to the pariſh. Near the church is a houſe formerly inhabited by the Protector Richard Cromwell, who took the name of Clark after his return from the Continent: in this he lived during the remainder of his life in retirement; and here he died in 1712. Here are alms-houſes built by King James. Robert Dewhurſt erected a free-ſchool for poor children of the pariſh; Sir Edmund Scot gave 200*l.* to be laid out in lands for poor children's education; Humphrey Flint gave 200*l.* for the purchaſe of lands for impotent poor; Roger Jackſon in 1616 gave 10*s.* a year to the miniſter, and other ſmall things; Richard Coulter gave 100*l.* to be laid out in

lands, 4*l.* 10*s.* to the poor, and 10*s.* to the miniſter; Mrs. Catharine Drywood gave 100*l.* for the poor's benefit; Dame Jane Micoe gave 100*l.* to purchaſe lands for the poor.

The Hundred of Broadwater.

THIS hundred extends from Baldock on the north, to Totteridge on the ſouth, and is twenty-two miles in length; it is bounded on the north by the hundred of Odſey, the hundreds of Braughing and Hertford on the eaſt; on the ſouth by Middleſex, and on the weſt by the hundreds of Caſhio and Hitchin. It derives its name from the pariſh of Broadwater, and the pariſhes are divided between three high conſtables. But as part of this hundred extends beyond our limits, we ſhall deſcribe thoſe pariſhes which immediately fall under obſervation.

TOTTERIDGE.

THIS place was ſo called by the Saxons, from its ſituation upon the ridge of a hill. It was formerly waſte ground belonging to the king's revenue at Hatfield. As there is no mention of it in Domeſday-book, King Edgar might convey it to the church of Ely under the name of Hatfield; for this church enjoyed it till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the biſhop of that dioceſe paſſed it away to that queen, with the manor of Hatfield, in conſideration of an annuity granted to the biſhops of that ſee. Elizabeth, in the thirty-ſecond year of her reign, granted it to John Cage; from whom it came to —— Peacock; his widow ſold it to Sir Paul Whichcote. Robert Taylor, one of the tellers of the exchequer, built a good houſe here; but being indebted to the crown, the houſe was ſeized, and Queen Elizabeth ſold it to Hugh Hare, Eſq., whoſe grandſon was created Baron Coleraine in Ireland. Totteridge park has paſſed through various hands, and is now the pleaſant ſeat of William Lee Antonie, Eſq. It was originally a hunting-box belonging to Lord Bateman, of whom Sir William Lee purchaſed it.

The tithes of this pariſh are paid to the rector of Hatfield, who provides a curate here:

here: the church is ſituated on a hill near the middle of the town, containing a body, with a ſmall building of wood at the weſt end; in it are three bells, with a ſhort wooden ſpire.

HATFIELD.

FROM the barrenneſs of the ſoil and the ſituation upon a hill, the Saxons called this place Heathfield, now Hatfield. The Saxon kings were in poſſeſſion of it till King Edgar beſtowed it on the monks of Ely, and enriched that church with ſuch large revenues, that it was equal to any in England. In the time of the Confeſſor it was worth 30*l.* per annum. When Henry I. converted this monaſtery into a biſhoprick, he attached it to that ſee, and the manor-houſe became a biſhop's palace, and the town was diſtinguiſhed by the name of Biſhop's Hatfield. When Henry VIII. died, the Earl of Hertford came here, with others of the nobility, where Edward VI. was educated. At the time of Queen Mary's death, Elizabeth reſided here. She procured the alienation of this manor from the Biſhop of Ely. The year following King James exchanged it with Sir Robert Cecil, Knight, for Theobalds; and it is now in that family in the Marquis of Saliſbury.

The manor of Wood-hall was ſo called from the abundance of timber found here. It was part of the poſſeſſions of the ancient family of the Baſſingburns, who held it of the manor of Hatfield. It came by marriage to Thomas Gaudy, who afterwards ſold it to Sir John Boteler, Knight, who held it in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It continued in this family till 1690, when Sir Francis Boteler dying, the manor came to Julian Shallcroſs, widow, his daughter. It is now the property of the Marquis of Saliſbury.

The manor of Punſborne is ſituated in a low bottom, and was part of the poſſeſſions of John Forteſcue in the reign of Henry VI. After the death of Henry Forteſcue it came to the crown, where it remained till Queen Elizabeth granted it to Sir Henry Cock, then valued at 12*l.* per annum. He deviſed it with others to Sir Robert Oxenbridge and others in truſt for ten years, with remainder to Sir Edward Lucy, who had married Frances, his eldeſt daughter. Their iſſue was Elizabeth, married to Sir John Ferrers, Knight, one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber to Queen Elizabeth and James I., and then to Charles I., by which he became lord in right of his wife, and died in 1640; it was afterwards ſold to Stephen Ewre and Joſhua Lomax, who granted it to Richard Woollaſton, Eſq., of Gray's Inn; he and his ſon

alienated it to Paris Slaughter, citizen of London, who repaired and beautified the houſe, and died in 1693, leaving a ſon and heir.

The manor of Popes and Holbeach was part of the manor of Eſſendon, and ſold to Holbeach; afterwards to Pope; from both of whom it was denominated, to preſerve the names and memory of the owners. It was next the property of William Stalworth; then of Richard Hall from marriage; it paſſed through different hands, being divided, till William Tooke, Eſq., who purchaſed the whole, came into poſſeſſion of it. The manor of Popes deſcended to Ralph, his heir, who dying without iſſue, it came to his brother George; in 1664 Thomas ſold it to Stephen Ewre and Joſhua Ewre, Eſq., who next year diſpoſed of it to Daniel Shawterden, Eſq., of Eltham, in Kent.

The manor of Aſtwick was part of the revenues of the Baſſingburne family; it afterwards came into the poſſeſſion of the Hares. William Grunwild poſſeſſed it about the year 1638, and ſold it to Dios, an ironmonger in London; his ſon diſpoſed of it to Sir Henry Tulſe, Knight, lord mayor of London.

The manor of Symonds Hide was in the poſſeſſion of Simon Fitz-Ade, who was lord of it in 1239. He had iſſue John Fitz-Simon. In this family it continued till Nicholas Fitz-Simonds left an only daughter, who married William Aſh, Eſq., by whom ſhe had iſſue Elizabeth, her heireſs, married to Sir Thomas Brocket, in whoſe right he enjoyed the manor; it remained with this family till it came by marriage to Richard Spencer; and from him it paſſed to Sir John Spencer.

The manor of Holdwell and Ludwick was in the poſſeſſion of Sir Humphrey Wild, Knight, who held that of Ludwick, with appurtenances, of the manor of Hatfield.

Brocket-hall was the ancient ſeat of the Brockets, ſituated upon a dry hill in a fair park, well wooded, encloſed with a brick wall on the weſt ſide of the road for the length of a mile, and pleaſantly watered by the river Lea. It came to Thomas Read by marriage of Sir John Brocket's daughter. It is now the property and ſeat of Lord Melbourne, and is about two miles and a half from Hatfield. The old houſe is pulled down, and a handſome dwelling built. The park and grounds are very beautiful.

Hatfield-houſe, the reſidence of the Marquis of Saliſbury, is beautifully ſituated in a richly diverſified park, and includes an area of ſeveral miles in circumference; it is watered

watered on the north ſide by the river Lea; the manſion is of great extent, and compoſed of brick; it was built by Robert Cecil, firſt Earl of Saliſbury, about the years 1605 and 1611, when the manor came into his hands by exchange with James I. It is in the form of half an H, and many additions have been made of late years, particularly by the laſt earl, who reſtored the magnificence of the venerable edifice, which had fallen conſiderably into decay. Many of the apartments are large, and ornamented with pictures of great merit. The park and grounds are filled with ſome of the fineſt timber in the county. Here were originally two parks, in one of which was a vineyard, the other was for red and fallow deer. King Charles I. was a priſoner here. The Marchioneſs is extremely fond of agriculture, and has for that purpoſe fenced in about ſeventeen acres for the purpoſe of experiments. The ground was laid out in the year 1795, and has been chiefly uſed for the purpoſe of producing vegetables, &c. This noble family is ſprung from the great Chancellor Burleigh in Elizabeth's time. The manor-houſe of Hatfield Wood-hall is now taken down.

The church of Hatfield is erected near the town, in the deanery of Hatfield, and in the dioceſe of Lincoln; it is in the form of a croſs. A tower at the weſt end contains five bells. A chapel at the north ſide was erected by the Earl of Saliſbury. The church contains many monuments. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 36*l.* 2*s.* per annum; it is now worth 1000*l.* per annum: the Marquis of Saliſbury is patron.

DIGSWELL.

ABOUT four miles to the north of Hatfield is the village of Digſwell; it lies in a bottom, on the ſouth ſide of the river Maran, or Mimeram; it was ſo called from the ſprings of water which bubble out of the ground in this pariſh, which the Saxons called Wells. In the Conqueror's time Geffrey de Mandeville and Peter de Valoines poſſeſſed the manor; it was then worth 4*l.* per annum. Laurence of St. Nicholas was the next lord of the manor; he had it in the reign of Edward I.; he had one market every week, and a fair for ten days together every year in Henry III.'s time. The Perient family had it next in the reign of Richard II.: it remained with them for ſome time, till Thomas Perient, Eſq., ſheriff of this county and Eſſex, died in 1536, leaving the manor to two daughters, Mary, the wife of George Horſey,

Horſey, and Anne, wife of Antony Carlton; of Ralph Horſey this was purchaſed by Sir George Perient, a branch of the former family; ſheriff in 1604: he conveyed it to Richard Sidley, Eſq. Humphrey Shallcroſs, Eſq., purchaſed it of William Sidley, Eſq., in the reign of Charles II. Digſwell houſe is in a pleaſant ſituation, and the ſeat of Thomas Shallcroſs, Eſq. In 1781 the manor was ſold to Earl Cowper.

The rectory is rated in the king's books at 7*l.* 4*s.* per annum; the lords of the manor have been always patrons. The church is in a bottom near the manor-houſe, in the deanery of Hertford, and dioceſe of Lincoln; it has a ſquare tower at the weſt end, with three bells, and a ſhort ſpire is erected upon it. It is dedicated to St. John the Evangeliſt.

WELWYN.

THIS place, within twenty-four miles of London, was the town where the maſſacre of the Danes began in 1012; from which circumſtance it received the name, becauſe the weal of the county was thus preſerved; but the Saxons long before called it Welves, from the many ſprings which ariſe here. In the Confeſſor's time the parſon held the manor of King Edward by free alms, and it was in the juriſdiction of this church, as it was in the time of the Conqueror. The advowſon belongs to the college of All Souls, Oxford. Dr. Young, author of Night Thoughts, was rector here in 1730, and retained it till his death in 1765: that poem was chiefly compoſed here, as well as his other pieces. He was buried here near the body of his wife, Lady Elizabeth Lee. A good monument is erected in the church to their memories by his ſon.

The manor of Mardley-bury King William beſtowed upon Geffrey de Beſch; it was then worth 50*s.* a year, but in the Confeſſor's time 6*l.* It came afterwards to Philip de Mardley, from whom it took its name. He granted it to William de Bernet, clerk, conſiſting of 140 acres of land, and 3 of wood, by the rent of a clove gilliflower. Shortly after it was in the poſſeſſion of Bartholomew Baddleſmere, in the reign of Edward II. Upon partition afterwards it came to Margaret, wife of John Tiptoft, his ſiſter. It devolved to the crown upon the attainder of the daughter of Lord Mountjoy in Henry VIII.'s reign. That king granted it to Sir John Throckmorton; and it was afterwards ſold to the Lytton family.

Lockleys

Lockleys manor was ſo called from an owner, and was purchaſed by Edward Wingate, Eſq.; his ſon adorned the ſeat, and improved the grounds in the time of Charles I. The Perient family were owners of it formerly, and it is now the ſeat of Charles Gardner, Eſq. The manſion is pleaſantly ſituated at a ſhort diſtance from the river Maran, on the eaſt ſide. The pariſh of Welwyn, according to the late returns, contained 1015 inhabitants.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, and is rated in the king's books at 21*l.* yearly value: it is ſituated near the middle of the town, in the deanery of Hertford, and dioceſe of London; and contains two aiſles covered with lead, with a chancel at the eaſt end; a ſquare tower, with a ring of five bells, was formerly on the north ſide, but has ſince fallen down. Here are ſome ſmall benefactions to the church and pariſh.

AYOT MONTFICHET, AYOT ST. PETERS, AND LITTLE AYOT.

ABOUT two miles from Welwyn towards the weſt is the pariſh of Ayot St. Peter's; in Domeſday-book it is recorded as the Terra Baioſenſis; it was at that time in the hundred of Braughing, and was held of the Biſhop of Bayeux; it was worth 20*s.* a year then, and in the Confeſſor's time 30*s.* By the records it appears that this was a watery place, for here was a mill, and a pool which yielded 200 eels a year for rent. The pariſh was called Eye formerly, which ſignifies a watery ground. In the time of Henry II. the manor and eſtate was in the poſſeſſion of Richard Montfichet; he died without iſſue, and his ſiſters were coheireſſes, among whom his lands were divided; from him it took the name of Montfichet. In a ſhort time after it came by that name to William de Ayete, who had a fair granted here. John Lancaſter had the moiety of the manor afterwards, and John Yeland and Ralph, the ſon of Walter, had the other, with the advowſon of the church. Nicholas Corbet after this obtained it; and ſince that it came to John Poteyn; it has been diſmembered, and divided among many perſons ſince that period; ſome part of it went to the Brocket family, from whom it paſſed to Sir James Read, Bart.; another part was ſold to Thomas Perient, Eſq.; his deſcendants conveyed it to Rowland Hale, Eſq.

The

The rectory was rated in the king's books at 8*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum: the lords of the manor are the patrons. The church is ſituated upon a dry hill, not far from the rivers Lea and Maran; a ſhort ſpire is erected on the tower.

GREAT AYOT, OR AYOT ST. LAURENCE.

THIS pariſh ſtands among the woods upon a hill, about a mile diſtant from the preceding pariſh. It was part of Earl Harold's poſſeſſions in the Confeſſor's time. The Conqueror gave part of it to the reeve of the hundred, and the reſidue to Robert de Gernon, a Norman. In the Confeſſor's time it was worth 6*l.* a year. Shortly after this manor returned to the crown, and Henry I. granted it to Radhere, a man of wit, but low birth, and afterwards a great enthuſiaſt. He gave the lands to the priory of St. Bartholomew; at the diſſolution of that monaſtery, Henry VIII. granted it, as it had fallen to the crown, with the advowſon of the church, to John Brocket, John Alway, and Nicholas Briſtow, in fee; the latter lived to a great age: it continued in his family till the beginning of the eighteenth century, when Thomas Lewis, Eſq., purchaſed it; and at his death it was ſold to Cornelius Lyde, Eſq., in whoſe family it remains. Samuel Lyde is the preſent poſſeſſor. The manſion is of brick, ſituated in a ſmall park.

The church ſtands on a dry hill in the middle of the pariſh, in the deanery of Hertford, and dioceſe of Lincoln; it is dedicated to St. Laurence, and is valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* per annum. At the eaſt end of the church are two chancels; there is a chapel belonging to the Briſtow family. At the weſt end is a ſquare tower, with a ſpire, and two ſmall bells. There are ſome monuments in the inſide to the Briſtow family, and others. The late Sir Lionel Lyde erected a church here, after the Grecian ſtyle, in the year 1778. The ground-plan of the old church is very ſingular, being in the form of an oblong ſquare, or nearly a double cube, divided into two parts by arches, and the eaſtern part ſeparated into two chancels.

DATCHWORTH.

IN ancient times ſome of the Saxon kings granted four hides in this pariſh to the monaſtery of St. Peter's, in Weſtminſter; the name of Datchworth came from the

manſion of ſome poſſeſſor, as the laſt ſyllable in the Saxon language imports. It was worth 60*s*. a year in the Confeſſor's time. Gilbert de Prochin and his wife granted the church to that of St. Alban's; and others gave lands here to that church; which grants were confirmed by Henry I. The abbots of Weſtminſter enjoyed this manor till the diſſolution, when it came to Henry VIII., who changed it into a biſhoprick; but Thomas Thirlby, the new biſhop, dilapidating all its patrimony, the biſhoprick was diſſolved, and Edward VI. granted it to Nicholas Ridley, then Biſhop of London, and his heirs, paying yearly to the king 100*l*.: in this fee it has remained.

Datchworth-bury, which is the court baron of this manor, was in the poſſeſſion of Richard Connet, Eſq., of Suſſex, in the time of Henry VII.; from whom it was conveyed to Forſter; in this family it continued till it was ſold to John Gamon, clerk, of Aſton; in the reign of James I. his ſon and heir ſold it to William Wallis, Eſq.

The manor of Thetchworth, or Theiſcote, was in the poſſeſſion of Robert de Olgi in the time of the Conqueror, which he had as a reward for his valour in aſſiſting him to obtain the crown of England. How long it continued with him is not known, and all accounts of the manor are uncertain. In Henry II.'s reign Henry was the lord of it; he was his brother's grandſon. This place is ſometimes called Datchworth.

The rectory was granted in 1347 by Thomas Delamere, abbot of St. Alban's, with the conſent of the convent, to the King and his heirs; in conſideration of which the king releaſed to them one penſion of 5*l*. per annum, which was claimed, becauſe his anceſtors had founded the abbey. The advowſon was afterwards granted to Lord Morley; upon whoſe death it came to his ſiſter, who married Sir Edward Howard, Knight; they in Henry VII.'s reign ſold it to Sir William Capell, Knight; from whom it came to the Earl of Eſſex. The rectory was valued in the king's books at 14*l*. 13*s*. 8*d*. per annum. The church ſtands on a great hill, in the deanery of Hertford, in the dioceſe of Lincoln, and contains a body, with a chancel at the eaſt, and a ſquare tower at the weſt end.

WATTON.

IN a vale upon the river Bene, or Benefician, is Watton, diſtant from Datchworth about three miles. The name is derived from the ſprings which abound there, which conſiderably augment the ſtream; for wat, in the Saxon language, ſignifies a moiſt and watery place. In the Conqueror's time it was divided between that prince, the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, the Abbot of Weſtminſter, and the Earl Alan. Peter de Valoines had the chief of the eſtate in the reign of Henry I. Lora, wife of Alexander Balioll, upon the partition of the eſtate at Peter's death, being his daughter, inherited that ſhare of the manor of Watton: he was brother to the King of Scotland, and granted it to Robert Aquilon in the reign of Henry III., who claimed a fair here every year for three days together. Henry de la Mire marrying his daughter, had the manor in Edward I.'s reign; but in the ſame reign it came to the poſſeſſion of Eudo Pellitot; from this family it came to Ralph Boteler by marriage, who had reſided at Overſley, in Warwickſhire, in the reign of Henry I. It continued in this family till the year 1778, when Sir Thomas Rumbold, Bart., late governor of Madras, purchaſed it of John Palmer Boteler, Eſq., who died in 1791. It was afterwards ſold by the truſtees of him to Paul Benfield, Eſq.; and has been ſince diſpoſed of to Samuel Smith, Eſq., the preſent poſſeſſor. The eſtate, when purchaſed by Sir Thomas Rumbold, conſiſted of about 5000 acres; it lately ſold for 150,000*l.* without the timber, which Sir Thomas bought with it for 85,000*l.*

The manor of Bardolfes is ſo called from a family, who were lords of it many years. Hugh Bardolfe, in the reign of Edward I., was a man of great conſequence, and had this manor at that time. Thomas, in the reign of Richard II., dying, left Anne and Joan, his daughters, heireſſes; the former, married to Sir William Clifford, Knight; the latter, to William Phillip: they alone held this manor, and had iſſue Elizabeth, married to Henry Beaumont, who was created a viſcount by Henry VI. The manor came to the crown on the attainder of Henry, his ſon, who had the title of Lord Bardolfe, when Edward IV. granted it to Roger Ree, Eſq.; from his ſon it was conveyed to John Boteler, who was at that time lord of the former manor, called Watton Wood-hall; from which family it has paſſed with the other.

Watton Wood-hall is ſituated in one of the moſt delightful ſpots in the county; it is a large and elegant manſion, ſtanding on a hill, watered by ſeveral ſtreams, and varied

varied with riſing grounds. The woods are particularly luxuriant and extenſive. In the year 1772 the old manſion of the Boteler family was deſtroyed by fire; it was a large pile of brick, with a quadrangle in the middle; the gallery was 300 feet in length. Sir Thomas Rumbold built the preſent manſion, and fitted it up with great elegance.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 19*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* per annum: the lords of the manor have been the patrons. The church ſtands on the ſide of a hill near the town, in the deanery of Hertford, and dioceſe of Lincoln; on the north ſide of the chancel is a chapel, and a tower adjoining the weſt end; it has a ring of ſix bells. There are many monuments of the Botelers and other families in this church.

In a place called Wellwood, lying between a farm called Broomhall, in this pariſh, and the pariſh of Datchworth, is a deep well without water. Here entrenchments have been made; and it is ſuppoſed that the Danes had a camp here; for not far from hence there is a field called Danesfield, where a great battle was fought between the Danes and Engliſh. The ſoil of this pariſh is chiefly gravel, and abounds much in wood and timber. Here are ſome few charitable donations.

SACOMBE.

THIS pariſh, called Suevecamp in Domeſday-book, from Suavis Campus, pleaſant field, from its fertility and agreeable ſituation, is about two miles diſtant from Watton on the weſt; and in the time of the Conqueror was the property of Peter de Valoines; from whoſe family it paſſed by marriage into that of Comyne. Eufemia marrying William de la Beck, dying in 1361, left an only daughter and heireſs, married to Sir Roger Elſmugg, who held this manor and the advowſon of the church in the fortieth year of Edward III.'s reign: he dying, ſhe conveyed them to Sir John Holt, juſtice of the Common Pleas, in Richard II.'s time. He was attainted and baniſhed, by which means this manor was forfeited and ſeized into the king's hands, and granted to John Corbet for a ſhort time. It afterwards came into the poſſeſſion of the Babthorpe family of Yorkſhire, who poſſeſſed it in the fifteenth year of Henry VI.; one of them died in Henry VII.'s reign; Iſabel was his ſole heireſs, married to William Plompton, Eſq.; from whoſe deſcendants it was purchaſed by Sir Robert Boteler, of Watton Wood-hall. He died poſſeſſed of it in 1622; and Jane, his

daughter, conveyed it in marriage to John Lord Bellaſis, of Wortaby, in Lincolnſhire, who was a general in the reign of Charles I. By him it was ſold to Sir John Gore, who, in James II.'s reign, ſold it again to Sir Thomas Rolt, of a Bedfordſhire family, and preſident of the Eaſt India Company in Surat. Thomas, his great-grandſon, dying in 1758, it came to two ſiſters, coheireſſes; Mary, the only ſiſter who had iſſue, married Timothy Caſwall, Eſq., L. L. D., one of the commiſſioners of exciſe, and ſome time repreſentative for Hertford, who died in poſſeſſion of the manor in 1802, and was ſucceeded by his ſon George Caſwall, Eſq., the preſent poſſeſſor. The old manor-houſe, which was ſituated in Sacombe park, was demoliſhed by the late Mr. Caſwall, who erected the preſent reſidence, called Cold Harbour, which ſtands ſome ſhort diſtance from it. The rectory is valued at 10*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* per annum in the king's books: the lords of the manor are patrons. The church is dedicated to St. Catharine, and is ſituated on a dry hill, in the deanery of Hertford, in the dioceſe of Lincoln. It has a tower erected on the ſouth ſide, in which are three bells. The Rev. Mr. Merton, who died in 1669, gave 100*l.* in land for intereſt, to put out an apprentice of the pariſh.

MUNDON PARVA.

THIS pariſh, otherwiſe called Mundane Frewel, lies in a bottom, about a mile and a half diſtant from Sacombe on the north: the name is probably derived from the vale, where a great part of the houſes are ſheltered under the hill, on both ſides. Mund, in the Saxon language, ſignifies a ſafe place; and dane, a valley. It belonged in the Conqueror's time to Walter Flandrenſis, who aſſiſted that prince in his expedition againſt this kingdom. In the Confeſſor's reign it was worth 8*l.* a year. The manor was afterwards granted to one Frewel, who held it of the king; from this family it took the name. In the reign of Edward III. it was in the poſſeſſion of Reginald de Grey, Lord of Wilton, in Herefordſhire. It continued in this family till the time of Henry VII., when Sir William Say purchaſed both this and that of Great Mundane, with the advowſons of both churches; from him this manor paſſed as the manor of Bennington did, until it came to Michael Woodcock, Eſq. He firſt by mortgage, and afterwards by the entire ſale, diſpoſed of the manor to Sir Peter Vanlore, who gave it in marriage, with his daughter, to Sir Charles Cæſar. But it came

came back afterwards to Edmund Woodhall, whoſe daughter married —— Woodcock. By marriage it afterwards came to —— Thornton.

The manor of Libury was formerly called Sutreheld, and ſince, Haultwick, from its high ſituation. Henry de Grey, Lord of Wilton, was lord of the manor in Edward II.'s reign. It continued in this family till Edward Hill, Gent., and Ralph Lathom, citizen of London, purchaſed it; from Lathom's family it came to various perſons, Brockman, Beresford, and Spence; the latter of whom held it in Charles II.'s time.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 15*l.* per annum: the lords of the manor are the patrons. The church ſtands on a hill in the middle of the pariſh, in the deanery of Baldock, and dioceſe of Lincoln. It has a ſquare tower at the weſt end, with five bells.

GREAT MUNDON.

THIS pariſh, alſo called Mundon Furnival, is ſituated about a mile and a half diſtant from Little Mundon towards the north-eaſt: it is ſo called from the hill on which the church ſtands. William the Conqueror gave it to Earl Alan, who poſſeſſed it at the time of the ſurvey: it was then worth 16*l.* a year. This manor was part of the earldom of Richmond, and paſſed with that honour till it came to Conſtance, daughter and heireſs of Conan Alan: ſhe married Geoffrey, fourth ſon of Henry II., King of England. After the king had retained the earldom ſome time, he diſpoſed of it, with the revenues, to Gerrard de Furnival, from whom it derived the additional name. He was a younger ſon of Furnival of Sheffield, and was at the ſiege of Acre in the Holy Land with King Richard I. His ſon died in Henry III.'s reign; upon which the king aſſigned it to the Lady Nicola de Haya; ſhe was an eminent lady, very loyal to King John in his troubles with the barons. In Edward III.'s reign it was in Reginald de Grey, Lord of Wilton; his deſcendant ſold it to John Fray and his heirs. In Henry VII.'s reign the manor was in the poſſeſſion of Sir William Say, Knight, and paſſed from him as the manors of Roweny and Bennington did, till they returned to the crown, where it continued till a leaſe of the demeſnes was granted to William Earl of Saliſbury for three lives. The manor, royalties, and demeſnes, were ſold to Edward Arris, ſurgeon, of London, and the quit-rents granted to Edward Earl of Sandwich. The Arris family afterwards ſold their ſhare to Robert Hadgeley, Eſq.

Rownea priory was founded in 1164 by Conan Duke of Britanny for nuns of the Benedictine order, and dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt. The prioreſs and nuns held it till Henry VI.'s reign, when the revenues were ſo much decreaſed, that Agnes Selby, the prioreſs, obtained the king's licence to reſign her eſtates to John Fray, chief baron of the Exchequer, who applied them to found a chantry of one prieſt in the pariſh church. In Henry VIII.'s time the yearly income of it was 13*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* The hall ſtill remains, though the priory was converted into a farm. The ſite of the chapel may be alſo ſeen near the farm-houſe. In Charles I.'s reign it came to —— Birchinghead, whoſe ſon ſold it to —— Browne, Eſq., of the Inner Temple.

The church ſtands upon a hill in the middle of the pariſh, in the deanery of Baldock, and dioceſe of Lincoln. It has a ſquare tower at the weſt end, with a ſmall ſpire. The rectory is valued at 21*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* per annum in the king's books. The king was formerly patron, till James II. in 1687 granted the advowſon to John Lord Churchill and Thomas Dowcra, Eſq., upon truſt, to preſent to it the rector of St. Alban's.

BENNINGTON.

THIS pariſh is about two miles diſtant from Great Mundon on the weſt, and ſtands upon an eminence. It probably has its name from the river Bene which flows there. In Domeſday-book it was called Belineton, and was a ſeat at that time of the kings of Mercia. Bertulfe, one of the kings, often reſided in his palace here about the year 850. In the time of the Confeſſor it was held by Almar, ſurnamed De Belintone; but when the Conqueror ſubdued the country, he gave this manor to Peter de Valoines: it was then worth 12*l.* a year. Here was a prieſt at that time, and a park of deer. Peter de Valoines, his grandſon, left a daughter, his heireſs, married to Alexander de Baliol, who in the reign of Edward I. conveyed this manor to John Benſtede. In this king's reign a charter of a market weekly and a fair annually was granted; the former is no longer uſed. John de Benſtede was a judge of the court of Common Pleas in Edward II.'s reign: in his family this manor remained for ſeveral generations; but early in the reign of Henry VII. it was ſold to Sir William Say, Knight. Sir William had iſſue two daughters, Elizabeth, married to William Lord Mountjoy, and Mary, to Henry Bourchier, Earl of Eſſex; the former had a daughter; after whoſe death the manor devolved to Anne, daughter

of Mary Counteſs of Eſſex. This lady married Sir William Parre, who thus became poſſeſſed of the eſtates. He was Lord Parre of Kendal, and afterwards created Earl of Eſſex. His children by Anne were baſtardized by act of parliament; yet he was made Marquis of Northampton and Chamberlain of England. He was condemned to die for ſupporting Lady Jane Grey, but reſpited and reſtored at length to life; but his eſtates were forfeited. Queen Elizabeth granted the reverſion of this manor to Walter Viſcount Hereford to hold in ſoccage by a yearly rent of 44*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, which had before by Mary been granted in truſt for Anne Viſcounteſs Bourchier and Lady Lovaine for forty years, provided the marquis lived ſo long. Lord Hereford was afterwards advanced to the title of Earl of Eſſex. He dying in 1576 left Bennington to his widow, who in the thirty-ſeventh year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, with her huſband, then Sir Chriſtopher Blount, and Robert Earl of Eſſex, the Queen's favourite, her eldeſt ſon, conveyed it to Thomas Crompton, Eſq., and heirs. It ſoon after again reverted to the Earl of Eſſex. In James I.'s reign Richard Earl of Clanrickard, in right of his wife Frances, widow of Robert Earl of Eſſex, poſſeſſed it, to whoſe ſon Robert, third Earl of Eſſex, it afterwards came, and continued in him till his divorce from Lady Frances Howard in 1613. Sir Julius Cæſar, Knight, then purchaſed it of him in order to pay off his wife's portion for the ſum of 14,000*l.* Sir Julius was maſter of the rolls in 1610, and died in 1636. His ſon had the manor, and was alſo maſter of the rolls in 1638; he had fifteen children by two wives, and died of the ſmall-pox in 1643. Henry, his ſon, was next heir, and repreſented the county in 1660: he alſo died of that diſorder, as did ſeveral others of that family. It continued in this family till 1744, when it was ſold by truſtees under his will, to the truſtees of the will of Sir John Cheſhire, Knight, whoſe ſon Robert married one of the daughters and coheireſſes of Mr. Charles Cæſar; John Cheſhire, Eſq., his great nephew, is the preſent proprietor, and lives in a ſmall manſion near the ſite of the ancient caſtle at Bennington, which ſtood to the weſt of the church, and probably was upon the ſpot where the palace of the Saxon kings was built. The ditch and the mount of the keep ſtill remain. The old manor-houſe, which was inhabited by the Cæſars, ſtood in the park, but was burnt down about forty years ago, and a ſmaller building erected on the ſite, for ſome time occupied by Mr. Bullock.

Bennington rectory is rated in the king's books at 19*l.* per annum: the lords of the manor have been always patrons. The church is ſituated in the town, near the

manor-

manor-houſe. It is dedicated to St. Peter, and is a ſmall building. It conſiſts of a nave and chancel, with a chapel and tower at the weſt end, and a chapel connected with the chancel at the north. Here are ſome old monuments worthy obſervation, both of the Cæſars and Benſtedes; the latter of which family are ſuppoſed to have built the church.

ASTON.

THIS village, ſituated on a hill, on the weſt of the river Bene, or Benefician, about two miles from Walkern, was ſo called by the Saxons from its ſituation to the eaſt of ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes. In the Conqueror's time it was part of the revenues of the Biſhop of Bayeux; and in the Confeſſor's time was worth 20*l.* per annum. After the death of the Conqueror, who had it on account of the biſhop's revolting againſt him, it was given to the monks of Reading by Adeliza, queen of Henry I., who kept poſſeſſion of it till their diſſolution, when Henry VIII. granted it to Sir John Boteler of Watton Wood-hall. The houſe is built of brick, with chimnies curiouſly ornamented.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 26*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* per annum; and the lords of the manor are patrons. The church ſtands upon a hill, in the middle of the pariſh, in the deanery of Baldock, and dioceſe of Lincoln: it only contains the body and chancel, with a tower at the weſt end, and five bells, with a ſmall ſhaft upon the tower.

KNEBWORTH.

THIS pariſh is ſituated upon a pleaſant hill, about two miles weſtward of Aſton, in Domeſday-book called Chenepſworde, for at that time the letter K was not known, but was expreſſed by Ch; it is derived from the habitation of ſome ancient poſſeſſor. Eudo Dapifer had it in the time of the Conqueror: at that time it was worth 10*l.* per annum. From him it paſſed to William de Mandeville. Robert de Hoo was the next lord of it; he obtained a charter for a weekly market here in the twentieth of Edward I., and free warren in all his demeſne lands of Knebworth and Harpenden

Harpenden in this county. In Edward II.'s reign Thomas de Brotherton poſſeſſed it: he died in the reign of Edward III., and left two daughters his heireſſes; Margaret, the eldeſt, had this manor on partition, married to John de Segrave; and after his death, to Sir Walter Manny; ſhe held the manor at his death, and was created Ducheſs of Norfolk: after her death John de Hotoft poſſeſſed the manor; he was member in ſeveral parliaments for this county in the reign of Henry V. and VI., and was ſheriff in the 7th of Henry VI.'s reign. Sir Thomas Bourchier ſhortly after obtained the manor; he ſold it to Robert Lytton, Eſq., of the county of Derby, and keeper of the wardrobe to Henry VII. It remained in this family till Sir William Lytton's death in 1705, when Judith, his eldeſt ſiſter and coheireſs, wife of Sir Nicholas Strode, brought it into his family, where it remained till the death of Lytton Strode, Eſq., their grandſon, who, dying without iſſue, left it to William Robinſon, Eſq., his couſin, who took the name of Lytton, and was ſucceeded by his ſon; he died in 1762 without iſſue ſurviving, when the eſtate came to the preſent poſſeſſor, Richard Warburton Lytton, Eſq., ſon of Barbara, daughter of William Robinſon, Eſq. The ſeat of the Lyttons is called Knebworth-place. The manor-houſe is built of brick in the form of a quadrangle, in the middle of which is a court; the front preſents a caſtellated pile of greater antiquity than the reſt of the building.

The church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary: it contains only a body and chancel, with a ſmall chapel or burying-place, built by the Lyttons on the north ſide of the chancel. At the weſt end is a ſquare tower, with five ſmall bells. It is at a ſhort diſtance from the manor-houſe. It contains ſome good monuments to the Lytton and other families. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 13*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.*, of which the lords of the manor have been patrons.

HITCHIN HUNDRED.

THIS hundred contains only one pariſh which falls within our limits. Stagenhoe and Paul's Walden are the only places to be deſcribed; the former of which lies in the pariſh of St. Paul's Walden.

PAUL'S WALDEN.

THIS pariſh, otherwiſe called Abbots Walden, was given by King Offa to the monaſtery of St. Alban, to which it remained attached till the diſſolution. After this Henry VIII. granted it to St. Paul's church in London, to which foundation it yet belongs. An ancient manſion here formerly was poſſeſſed by a family named Gilbert, which they held under that church; from them it paſſed by an heireſs to the family of Bowes, in the county of Durham; from them it came to the family of Strathmore, by the marriage of Mary Eleanor, daughter and heireſs of George Bowes, Eſq., to the Earl of Strathmore. This houſe was occupied by the Duke of St. Alban's.

Stagenhoe lies in this pariſh, and was formerly part of the poſſeſſions of the Verdun family: it lies in the half-hundred of Hitchin, where it is charged with extraordinary taxes. John de Verdun had the manor in Edward I.'s reign; from that family it came to the Pilkingtons, of Pilkington, in Lancaſhire, who kept poſſeſſion of it till the reign of Henry VII., when Sir Thomas Pilkington, Knight, taking part with Lambert Simnel, the counterfeit Plantagenet, and fighting by his ſide in the battle of Stoke, near Newark, in 1487, was ſlain there; upon which, his eſtate was ſeized by the crown. The king granted it ſoon after to George Lord Strange, ſon of the Earl of Derby; from whom it came by purchaſe to the family of Godfrey, who ſold it to Richard Hale, Eſq., of King's Walden, whoſe ſon gave it to John Hale, ſheriff of the county in 1663. Roſe, his daughter and heireſs, marrying Sir John Auſten, Bart., of Bexley, Kent, it came to his poſſeſſion. Their ſon ſold it to Robert Heyſham, Eſq., who died in 1734 without iſſue; he left it by will to Giles Thornton, of St. Botolph's, London, who took the name of Heyſham, and whoſe grandſon, Robert Thornton Heyſham, is the preſent poſſeſſor. The houſe was built by Sir John Hale, Knight, about the year 1650; it is a handſome edifice, and ſtands in a ſmall park.

EDWINSTREE HUNDRED.

THIS hundred was ſo denominated from the great road or ſtreet Ermineſtree, which croſſes this hundred. Ermineſtreet was one of the four famous ways which the Romans made in England. This was doubtleſs called Hermanſtreet, ſignifying the military road leading to the northern parts of the iſland from the ſouth. The hundred is bounded on the north and weſt by that of Odſey, on the eaſt by the counties of Eſſex and Cambridge, and on the ſouth by the hundred of Braughing. It is divided between two high conſtables. Very few pariſhes are within the compaſs of this work.

FURNEAUX PELHAM.

THE firſt pariſh which falls within our account is that of Furneaux Pelham, which at the time of the Conqueſt was with Brent Pelham and Stocking Pelham but one pariſh; they were at that time divided into ſeven parcels, all held of the Biſhop of London. It is not known how they were alienated from that ſee; but in the reign of Henry III. Simon de Furneaux poſſeſſed the whole; the name of Furneaux Pelham was derived from him; from the Furneaux family this manor paſſed with that of Brent Pelham by an heireſs to Sir John de la Lee, member of parliament for the county in Edward III.'s reign: from this family it came to Robert Newport, Eſq., in Richard I.'s reign; he was knight of the ſhire in Henry IV.'s reign; and in his deſcendants this manor continued till the time of Henry VIII., when it came by marriage to the Parker family. Sir William Parker, Lord Mounteagle, ſold it to Edward Newport in 1616; he was deſcended from the former family. The manor-houſe, called Pelham-hall, with the parks and appurtenances, had before been ſold to Richard Mead, Eſq., of Bearden, by Lord Mounteagle, who demoliſhed a conſiderable part of the buildings; it afterwards paſſed through the hands of the Caſons and others to Felix Calvert, Eſq., of Brent Pelham, who purchaſed it in 1677. They alſo purchaſed Stocking Pelham.

The manor of White Barnes, in the reign of King Stephen, belonged to Robert de Sigillo, Biſhop of London, lord of the manors of Brent and Furneaux Pelham. It was held with the former churches, that he and his ſucceſſors ſhould provide 300lbs.

weight of wax for ſix lamps to be continually burnt in this church. It continued ſucceſſively in the treaſurers of St. Paul's church, London, who were orginally conſtituted by the Biſhops of London as lords of the manor.

The rectory is appropriated to the perpetual uſe of the treaſurers of St. Paul's cathedral; the vicarage is valued in the king's books at the yearly rate of 9*l.*; and the treaſurers of St. Paul's have been patrons. The church ſtands upon a hill near the town; it conſiſts of two aiſles, divided from the body. There is a ſmall chapel or burial-place, erected by Robert Newport, Eſq., in Henry VII.'s time; a ſquare tower, with a ring of five bells, adjoins the weſt end, with a ſmall ſpire erected on the tower. In the north aiſle is a curious piece of Gothic ſcreen-work. Here are ſome remarkable inſcriptions and monuments.

ALBURY.

THIS pariſh ſignifies an ancient ſeat, and is two miles diſtant from Furneaux Pelham to the ſouth. Ralph de Sigillo, Biſhop of London, poſſeſſed it in the time of King Stephen. It was called Eldeberic in Domeſday-book, and in the time of the Confeſſor was worth 8*l.* a year. In the reign of Henry II. Hugh de Bokeland was lord of the manor; in the next reign it was in the Baard family, and the daughter and heireſs of Sir John Baard conveyed it to John de la Lee in marriage; the Barley family had it next; they held it from the Biſhop of London. William Barley, who was attainted of high treaſon in the reign of Henry VII., forfeited it, and the king granted it to the Earls of Suffolk and Eſſex; but he was afterwards pardoned, and reſtored to his eſtates. It remained with that family till Dorothy Barley conveyed it to Thomas Leventhorp and his heirs; at his death it was divided among his four daughters, and deſcended in moieties through different families till it was purchaſed by the Calverts. Sir Edward Atkins lived here in the time of Charles II.; he was a learned man, chief baron of the Exchequer in 1686, and purchaſed a moiety of the manor. It is now the ſeat of Nicholſon Calvert, Eſq.

The manor of Albury parſonage was, in the time of King Stephen, in the poſſeſſion of Robert de Sigillo, Biſhop of London, who gave it to Geoffrey, conſtituted treaſurer of St. Paul's cathedral, London; in thoſe treaſurers it has always remained.

The manor of Upperwick was part of the poſſeſſions of the Bawd family; we find it in them in Henry V.'s reign, in 1420; Sir Thomas Bawd in 1503 granted to the Biſhop of Wincheſter and others his manor of Upperwick. In Queen Mary's reign it was in the poſſeſſion of Thomas Elliott. About the year 1633 William Stacy purchaſed it, and left an heir; he died in 1660.

The manor of Palmer was held of the Biſhop of London, of his caſtle of Biſhop's Stortford. Sir John Baard held it in Henry III.'s reign; from whom it paſſed to Geoffrey de la Lee in right of his wife, daughter and heireſs of Sir John Baard, and went as the manor of Albury did, till it came to John Harleſtone, who married the daughter and heireſs of Thomas Barley of Albury-hall, who had iſſue Anne, married to Thomas Scroggs, in whoſe family it was in the year 1700.

The rectory is appropriated to the perpetual uſe of the treaſurer of St. Paul's cathedral. The vicarage is rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 12*l.*, and the treaſurers are patrons. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and ſtands upon a hill in the middle of the pariſh, with a body and two aiſles on each ſide; at the weſt end is a ſquare tower, with a ſhort ſpire, and four bells; in the church is a gallery for the Brograve family. There are ſome ſmall benefactions in the pariſh. The inhabitants of this pariſh, with thoſe of Pelham and Meſdon, are free from the juriſdiction of the biſhop of the dioceſe, and are peculiar to the Archbiſhop of Canterbury. They derived theſe liberties from Archbiſhop Lanfranc, who exempted all pariſh prieſts of the towns which belonged to him, or where he was lord, from the juriſdiction or viſitation of the biſhop.

HADHAM PARVA.

ABOUT a mile ſouth-eaſt of Albury lies the pariſh of Hadham Parva, and was formerly part of the revenues of the Saxon kings, in whoſe poſſeſſion it continued till King Edgar gave part to the monks of Ely. In the time of the Confeſſor it was worth 12*l.* a year. The abbot of Ely held the manor till King Henry III., on his petition, converted the monaſtery into a biſhopric; the biſhops of Ely enjoyed it in the time of Edward I., when they claimed privileges; it continued in thoſe biſhops till one of them exchanged it with Queen Elizabeth; from which time it continued in the crown till James I. conveyed it to Robert Lord Cecil, of Eſſendon, in Rutlandſhire;

landſhire; and from him it deſcended into the family of the Marquis of Saliſbury, who has juriſdiction of court leet and baron.

The manor of Hadham-hall was another branch of the revenue of the Saxon kings, which was granted from the crown to the biſhops of London, who held it at the ſurvey. It was then worth 4*l.* a year. The biſhops of London held this manor ſome time in their poſſeſſion. In the reign of Henry III. it was in the poſſeſſion of Sir Henry Bawd, whoſe grandfather was a commander againſt the Saracens in the Holy Land. In this family, many of whom were ſheriffs of this county and Eſſex, it remained till the year 1505, when Thomas Bawd, Eſq., conveyed it to Sir Thomas D'Arcy, Knight, Lord D'Arcy, and his heirs. Lord D'Arcy again conveyed it to Sir William Capel, in the 20th year of Henry VII.'s reign: the Earl of Eſſex, his deſcendant, is the preſent poſſeſſor.

The manor of Wickham, at the time of the Conqueſt, was divided into two parts, of which Humphrey, a Saxon, held one of the Biſhop of London. This hamlet contains a meſſuage or farm, called Wickham-hall, which Arthur Lord Capel purchaſed and laid to his park, and converted the houſe into a lodge for the keeper. Another meſſuage or farm-houſe alſo, called Hammes, with all lands belonging to them, which lie in the pariſhes of Little Hadham, Farnham, and Stortford, is included in this hamlet; ever ſince the Conqueſt both the meſſuages and lands have been reputed, and remain part of this county, but pay parochial duties to the ſeveral pariſhes in which they lie.

The rectory formerly belonged to Sir Walter Baud, Knight, till the reign of Edward I., when he ſold all his right in the advowſon of the church to the Biſhop of London, and his ſucceſſors for ever, for the ſum of 20*l.*; and from that time it has been united with Great Hadham, though they have diſtinct officers, and are ſevered in all parochial duties, and the rector provides a curate. The church is ſituated upon a hanging hill facing the weſt: it is rated in the king's books with Great Hadham: it has a body and one aiſle. There is a ſquare tower at the weſt end, with four bells, and a ſpire erected upon it twelve feet high from the battlements. In the church are ſome inſcriptions and monuments to the Capel family and others.

GREAT

GREAT HADHAM.

THIS pariſh is ſituated in a vale upon the river Aſh, about two miles diſtant from the former towards the ſouth, and was part of the revenue of the biſhops of London, which they held in the time of the Conqueror: in the reign of the Confeſſor it was worth 20*l.* per annum. This was a ſeat which the biſhops of London uſually reſerved for their place of reſidence, and was of great conſideration with many of our princes; among whom, Catharine, mother of Henry VI., was delivered of a ſon in this manor-houſe. But ſince that time the biſhops have demiſed it for lives. Thomas Paſk, Eſq., had it about a century ago. The biſhops have juriſdiction of holding court leet and baron within this lordſhip, where the fines upon the admiſſion of any copyholder are certain, that is, one year's quit-rent; and there is a cuſtom, that the widow of every copyholder who ſhall die ſeiſed of a copyhold eſtate in fee, ſhall have her free bench in all the copyhold lands, of which her huſband died ſeiſed in this manor.

The manor of the rectory was doubtleſs derived from the laſt manor, and contains all the lands which the pariſh is ſaid to have held in Domeſday-book. When the biſhop erected and founded this church he appointed a prieſt to perform the office, and gave him this manor and lands for his ſupport: ſince that time the biſhop and his ſucceſſors have been patrons. There are ſome pleaſant houſes in this pariſh; Moor-place is the chief; it was ſo called from ſome diſtinguiſhed owner of that name, and was afterwards conveyed to the Dalton family, who held it in their name: it was afterwards ſold to Nevil Earl of Abergavenny, who ſince diſpoſed of it to Sir John Gore, Knight; he held it ſome time, and then conveyed it to Richard Atkyns, Eſq., who was created a baronet in 1660. He ſold it to James Berners, Eſq.

Another ſeat was erected here by —— Tompſon, Eſq., who afterwards ſold it to Charles Cæſar, Eſq., younger ſon of Sir Charles Cæſar, Knight, Maſter of the Rolls, and Chancellor of the Exchequer. He afterwards ſold it to William Allen, Eſq.

Another ſeat here of conſiderable antiquity was in the poſſeſſion of William Nuce, Eſq.

The rectory is eſtimated in the king's books at the yearly value of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The church ſtands in a bottom between the town and river Aſh; it has a chancel at the eaſt end, and a tower at the weſt, containing five bells: it has a ſpire covered with lead.

Caisho, or Cashio, Hundred.

THIS hundred was originally called Albaneſton, from the town of St. Alban's; but now Caiſho, from its being the ancient ſeat of Caſſibelan, king of the Caſſians. It has ſince become part of the poſſeſſions of that ancient monaſtery. It was made a liberty by a grant of Edward IV.; and upon the diſſolution of that church it reſted in the crown, and there remained till King James I. by letters patent granted the whole liberty of the late monaſtery, with all its appurtenances, to William Whitmore, Eſq., and John Eldred, and their heirs, who conveyed it in the ſame year to Robert Earl of Saliſbury, from whom it has lineally deſcended to the preſent marquis. Within this liberty ſtood the great city of Verolam, where Caſſibelan held his court, and was afterwards made a free city of the Romans, but ſince deſtroyed; ſo that nothing now remains but the foundations of the walls, with the marks of the ditches that encloſed about 450 acres of ground, which prove the extent of that city and the borough of St. Alban's, which was built out of the ruins of it, and is alſo ſituated within this liberty.

This hundred is bounded on the north and eaſt by the hundreds of Hitchin and Broadwater, on the ſouth by Middleſex, and on the weſt by the hundred of Dacorum. The town and borough of St. Alban's is the chief place where the ſeſſions of the liberty are held; it contains the following pariſhes and hamlets, which are divided between three high conſtables. In the firſt diviſion are Abbots Langley, Sarret, Rickmanſworth, Watford, Caiſho, Aldenham, Idleſtree, near Sulloniaca, formerly a Roman city, but now an uninhabited place, Chipping Barnet, Eaſt Barnet, Northaw, and Ridge. In the ſecond diviſion are, St. Stephens, Parkward, Sleep and Smallford, Tyttenhanger, St. Michael's, Windridge Ward, Redburne, and Sandridge. The third diviſion contains Paul's Walden, Codicote, Brantfield, Shephall, Hexton, Norton, and Newnham.

VERULAM and ST. ALBAN'S.

ABOUT twenty-one miles from London, upon the river Ver, is ſituated this ancient city of Verulam and St. Alban's, which being a borough of itſelf, and exempt from

from the juriſdiction of the other diviſions, will make a ſeparate hiſtory. Verulam, or Verulamium, from which St. Alban's derived its origin, was an ancient Britiſh city, the ſeat of the princes of the Caſſii, and according to the evidence of the Roman hiſtorians of greater antiquity than London itſelf. When Julius Cæſar invaded the Britons, it was the reſidence of Caſſibelan; and when the Romans had driven that chief from hence, they plundered the town; but the inhabitants living again quietly under their government, they were rewarded with the privileges of citizens of Rome, and their town made a municipium, or city. This was one of the two Roman cities which were taken and ſacked by the Britons, under the conduct of Boadicea, queen of the Iceni, in the reign of the Emperor Nero, when a moſt dreadful ſlaughter was made of the Romans and their allies. Malden, in Eſſex, was the other city; but both were rebuilt, and flouriſhed afterwards under the Romans. Several coins have been diſcovered here: Camden ſaw ſome with the inſcription Taſcia on one ſide, and Ver on the other; and as Taſc in the Britiſh language ſignifies tribute, and Ver is put for Verulam, he ſuppoſes this to have been money paid for a poll or land tax. In a ſucceeding age the fame of Verulam was additionally increaſed by the martyrdom of Albanus, or Alban, who fell during the perſecution of the Chriſtians, which commenced under the Emperor Diocleſian in the year of our Lord 303. No more is known of him than that he ſuffered during this period. He was probably a Roman, and put to death by imperial authority; but it may be doubted whether his adherence to the Chriſtian faith was the only crime laid to his charge. A church was, however, founded to his memory. He is ſuppoſed to have ſheltered a Chriſtian preacher, named Amphibalus, who had fled from Wales to avoid the perſecution. Albanus having ſecured his retreat, was condemned, and beheaded on a neighbouring hill, that hill on which the church of St. Alban's is now built. It would be tedious to enter into an account of his miracles, or the various ſtories related concerning this ſaint; it is ſufficient to ſay, that where St. Alban's bones were found, there the monaſtery was erected, with an inſcription upon it to this effect: "Here lieth interred the body of St. Alban, a citizen of old Verulam, from whom this town took its denomination, and from the ruins of this city this town of St. Alban did ariſe: he was the firſt martyr of England, and ſuffered his martyrdom on the 17th day of June, in the year of man's redemption 293." The monaſtery of St. Alban's was built on the other ſide of the river on a hill oppoſite, in a place called Holmehurſt, by Offa, king of the Mercians, in the year 793. In order to regain his peace of

mind for the many crimes and enormities he had committed, he reſolved to build a magnificent church to expiate his guilt, and to preſerve the invaluable reliques of this Chriſtian ſaint. The firſt ſtone of this new building was laid with the greateſt ſolemnity by Offa himſelf. There are, however, diſputes among the learned concerning this fabric, which go ſo far as to ſay, that it was not built by Offa, but by the early converts to Chriſtianity. Be that as it may, this king enriched the monaſtery with immenſe poſſeſſions for the maintenance of an hundred black monks. Of all the monaſteries of England, this was the richeſt. Its revenue was immenſe, and its privileges ſtill greater. The mitred abbot had precedency of all England, and was ſubject to no eccleſiaſtical power but that of the pope. From the firſt to the laſt they were forty-one in number, and many of them perſons of great accompliſhments and high birth; the thirty-ninth of which, though not high born, was Cardinal Wolſey. The laſt abbot was Richard Boreman, who, at the diſſolution, quietly ſurrendered at the royal command, and accepted a penſion for life of 266*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The church has been rebuilt in many parts at various times. The town purchaſed it at the diſſolution for 400*l.*, which prevented it from being pulled down and demoliſhed. It is now made a pariſh church for the borough. In the north entrance is Offa on his throne, with an inſcription underneath. In the eaſtern part of the church ſtood the ſhrine; ſix holes remain in the pavement where the ſupporters were fixed. The weſt end of the choir has a noble piece of Gothic workmanſhip for the ornament of the high altar. There are many curious medals and coins to be ſeen in the church, which have been dug out of the ruins of old Verulam. The general form of the building of the monaſtery, or church, is that of a long croſs, with a large ſquare tower riſing from the interſection of the nave and tranſept, and ſupported on four large ſemicircular arches: thoſe parts towards the middle are the moſt ancient, the eaſt and weſt ends being of a different ſpecies of architecture and more modern. The external appearance of the building, when ſeen from a diſtance, is very majeſtic; but upon a cloſer inſpection, loſes part of its effect from the mixture of Roman bricks and tiles. The tower appears to be the moſt perfect. The battlements and ſpire are later in date than the lower part of the tower, which is divided into three ſtages. The chapel of the Virgin, which is now uſed as a grammar-ſchool, exhibits ſome beautiful ſpecimens of architecture, in the ornaments and forms of the windows. The proſpect from the ſummit of the tower is very extenſive and diverſified. The principal entrance is at the weſt end, beneath a porch which projects: above are the

ſhields with the arms of Offa and the abbey. The interior of the church is particularly ſtriking from the variations of architecture which it exhibits. Over the weſt entrance is a large and pointed arched window. The columns and arches of the nave diſplay much majeſty and grandeur. St. Cuthbert's ſcreen is of Tottenhoe ſtone obtained from quarries in the county of Bedford. It is finely ſculptured in the pointed order. The baptiſtry comprehends the ſpace between St. Cuthbert's ſcreen, and the firſt or weſternmoſt arch of the tower. The choir comprehends all the ſpace between the weſt arch of the tower and the altar ſcreen. The tower is ſupported on four noble arches of a ſemicircular form, ariſing from immenſely maſſive pillars. The abbots' monuments are very ſtriking. The altar is approached by a flight of ſteps, and the ſcreen, generally called Wallingford's ſcreen, which ſeparates the choir from the preſbytery, is perhaps the moſt beautiful piece of ſtone-work in England, and ſhews the improved taſte of architecture in the reign of Edward IV. The preſbytery includes the ſpace between the ſcreen and the eaſt end of the church; here is the monument of Duke Humphrey, and near it an ancient watch-tower, where the monks were accuſtomed to guard St. Alban's ſhrine. The aiſles are of the ſame length as the church at preſent; the ceilings of the nave, tranſept, and choir, are of wood, formed into ſquare compartments and painted. The chapel of the Virgin is completely ſeparated from the church, as the arches have been walled up. It was formerly very beautiful, but is now much dilapidated. The entire length of the abbey church is 539 feet, including the weſt porch and chapel of the Virgin. The length of the tranſept is 174 feet, the breadth almoſt 32; the breadth of the body of the church is 74½ feet; the height of the tower is 144 feet. The monuments and ſepulchral inſcriptions in the church are very numerous: that of the Duke of Glouceſter, guardian of Henry VI., is the moſt conſpicuous. The body of the duke was diſcovered by accident in a vault in the year 1703, and was found to be in pickle, in a leaden coffin, incloſed in one of wood. In niches are ſtatues of ſeventeen ſovereigns, ſuppoſed to be the duke's anceſtors. The chapel of the Abbot Ramryge is very beautiful, and excels in ſculpture; that of the Abbot Whethamſted is alſo very ſimple and elegant. On the pavements in the choir are many inſcriptions to different abbots, and other perſons of diſtinction, who were buried here. Here was formerly a library and writing-room; the books were diſperſed at the diſſolution. The chief part of the monaſtic buildings appear to have been ſituated towards the ſouth and ſouth-weſt of the church; very few are now remaining; the gate-houſe among

them, and a few cottages, which are ſuppoſed to have been the royal ſtables. The ſituation of the cloiſters can be eaſily aſcertained. The gate-houſe was built during the reign of Richard II., and is a heavy building, which forms the entrance into the precincts of the abbey; the upper part of it is now uſed for the priſon of the borough, as it was formerly that of the monaſtery. In the fields, at different diſtances, are arched paſſages, called the Monks Holes; they were probably intended for drains. For a particular account of this venerable edifice, we muſt refer the reader to Newcome's account of the abbey, where he will meet with every information he can poſſibly deſire.

Upon the diſſolution of this monaſtery all the grants and conceſſions remained in the crown; but for the preſervation of the town, King Edward VI. in 1554 granted that the town ſhould be incorporated by the name of mayor and burgeſſes of the borough of St. Alban's, and ſhould have perpetual ſucceſſion. It is now governed by a mayor, high ſteward, recorder, twelve aldermen, a town-clerk, and twenty-four aſſiſtants. In this borough is a particular liberty, which has a juriſdiction both in eccleſiaſtical and civil matters peculiar to itſelf. This diſtrict includes the pariſhes of Watford, Rickmanſworth, Nortonridge, Haxton, Walden Abbots, Sarret, Langley Abbots, Elſtre, Buſhy, Cudicot, Shephell, Sandridge, Redburne, and Barnet. The liberty has a gaol and gaol delivery at St. Alban's four times a year, on the Thurſday after the quarter ſeſſions at Hertford. There are four wards in this town, in each of which are two churchwardens and a conſtable. It is large and populous, though not a very beautiful town. The country round it is pleaſant, and abounds with fine ſeats. Here are two charity ſchools, one for twenty-eight boys, and the other for twenty-one. St. Alban's ſends two members to parliament, and has a large market for wheat, particularly on Saturdays. It has alſo three annual fairs, the 25th of March, 17th of June, and 29th of September, for the ſale of horſes and cattle.

The hoſpital of St. Julian was founded and erected by Geoffrey, ſixteenth abbot of the monaſtery of St. Alban's, near the road leading to London. Upon the diſſolution this hoſpital came to the crown; from whence it was conveyed to Thomas Lee; and from that family to Everard Digby; from them it was ſold to John Ellis, a draper of London; his ſon ſold it to Henry Killigrew in 1693.

The hoſpital of St. Mary de Pre, or in the Meadow, was founded in Richard I.'s reign by Garine, twentieth abbot, and given to ſick women, or lepers. At the diſ-

ſolution

ſolution King Henry VIII. gave the ſite of this hoſpital to Ralph Rowlet, Eſq., of St. Alban's, ſheriff of the county.

The chapel of St. Germain's was built by Germain Biſhop of Auxerre, and Lupus Biſhop of Troyes, about the year 429. Sir Thomas Cotton bought it in 1687, and ſold it to Henry Killigrew, Eſq.; it has been ſince demoliſhed.

The manor of Newland Squillers was part of the revenue of the church of St. Alban's. Upon the diſſolution it came to the king, who granted it to Sir Richard Lee; it was afterwards conveyed to —— Grace, citizen and goldſmith, of London, who brought it in marriage to the Robotham family.

The manor of Butterwick, in St. Peter's pariſh, was part of the poſſeſſions of St. Alban's monaſtery. Upon the diſſolution it came to the crown; from thence it was conveyed to Anthony Denny, Eſq., who ſold it to Sir Richard Cox, maſter of the houſehold to Queen Elizabeth, King James, and Charles I.

The manor of Beech was ſo called from Godfrey de Beche, who obtained it by gift of the Conqueror; it was afterwards given to the church of St. Alban, and came to the crown upon the diſſolution; from whence it was conveyed to Anthony Denny, Eſq., in whoſe family it remained till it was ſold to John Dell.

The monaſtery of Sopwell was founded by Geoffrey, abbot of St. Alban's, in the year 1140, for the reception of poor women; it was ſo called from a well near the place. Its origin aroſe from two poor women who formed a kind of cell here by twiſting boughs, and living in a moſt rigid and abſtemious manner; their conduct was ſo much approved by the abbot, that he built this nunnery. It occupies a conſiderable ſpace of ground, about half a mile ſouth-eaſt of St. Alban's; but the dilapidations have been ſo great that nothing can be traced. The nuns conſiſted of only ſixteen in number; their poſſeſſions were afterwards conſiderably increaſed; and at the diſſolution, according to Speed, were eſtimated at 68*l.* 8*s.* per annum. In 1541 Henry VIII. granted the ſite and buildings to Sir Richard Lee; by him the buildings were enlarged for his own reſidence, and the grounds converted into a park: and from him they paſſed into Sir Ralph Sadleir's family. About the time of the reſtoration it fell to an heireſs, married to Thomas Saunders, Eſq., of Beechwood; and was afterwards ſold to Sir Harbottle Grimſton, anceſtor of the preſent Lord Grimſton, of Gorhambury, who is the poſſeſſor of chief part of Sopwell nunnery manor.

The manors of Weld, Randolfes, and Newberries, have a manſion-houſe well ſituated,

ſituated, encompaſſed with a moat, and a park adjoining, at the centre of four pariſhes, St. Peter's in St. Alban's, St. Stephen's, Aldenham, and Ridge; and ſome of the demeſne lands lie in Shenley. John Somerſham, of Aſham, lord of the manor of Cornerd, in Suffolk, poſſeſſed them in the reign of Edward III.; his daughter, Margaret, marrying William Aſh, they came into his poſſeſſion. He left one daughter, married to Thomas Frowick, who had them in the reign of Henry V. From this family they came to John Coningſby, Eſq., in Henry VIII.'s reign. They poſſeſſed the manors for a conſiderable length of time.

The manor of Kingſbury was ſo called from the ancient Saxon kings who poſſeſſed it, and often reſided and kept their court here; among whom, Bertulph, king of the Mercians, celebrated a parliamentary council in 851. There was formerly a ſtately palace belonging to the caſtle of Kingſbury, ſituated at the weſt end of the town of St. Alban's. From the great expenſe which the royal entertainments cauſed to the abbots and monks of St. Alban's, they were induced to purchaſe this eſtate; King Ethelred ſold it to them, and it continued in their poſſeſſion till the diſſolution, when it returned to the crown: from thence it was conveyed to John Cox; his ſon ſold it to Sir Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, keeper of the great ſeal of England; he diſpoſed of it to Sir Thomas Meautys; from whom it paſſed as the manor of Gorham did to the Grimſton family.

The manor of Gorhambury was part of the ancient revenue of St. Alban's church, and was in all probability ſo denominated from Robert de Gorham, who was elected abbot in 1151. The abbots held it till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. In 1541 Henry VIII. granted it, with other eſtates, to Ralph Rowlet, Eſq., afterwards knighted, and ſheriff of the county. Mary, his eldeſt daughter, marrying John Maynard, Eſq., Gorhambury became his property. He in 1550 ſold it to Nicholas Bacon, Eſq., who was afterwards knighted, and made lord-keeper of the great ſeal to Queen Elizabeth. Sir Nicholas erected a manſion not far from that which is now the ſeat of Lord Grimſton, where he was frequently viſited by that queen. The houſe was in the form of a quadrangle, though now only the ruins of the hall and a tower are to be ſeen. The walls are thick, compoſed of flint. This manſion was reduced to ruins, when the preſent houſe of Lord Grimſton was built between the years 1778 and 1785. Sir Nicholas gave this manſion and manor to his ſon Anthony, who was an elegant ſcholar; and it continued in his poſſeſſion till his death, when it came to his brother Francis, afterwards Lord Verulam. In the year

1621

1621 the chancellor was accuſed of corruption, and ſentenced to retire, and to pay 40,000*l.* On his deceaſe in 1626 Gorhambury became the property of Sir Thomas Meautys, Knight, his relation and private ſecretary. After his death his widow married Sir Harbottle Grimſton, who purchaſed the reverſion of the manors of Gorhambury and Kingſbury of Hercules Meautys, nephew and heir of Sir Thomas Meautys. The Grimſton family are deſcended from Sylveſter, afterwards ſurnamed De Grimſton, a Norman, who came over with the Conqueror, and was his ſtandard-bearer at the battle of Haſtings. James Bucknall Grimſton is the preſent poſſeſſor, and was created a Britiſh peer in 1790. The manſion-houſe of Gorhambury is a ſpacious ſtone building of the Corinthian order, connected by two wings. Sir Robert Taylor was the deſigner of the plan. The grand entrance is by a flight of ſteps. The hall, library, and other apartments, are large, and decorated with many fine portraits. The park and grounds contain about 600 acres, well ſtocked with fine timber.

The manor of Childwick was granted by Ailwin the Black and Ailfled his wife to St. Alban's church, and upon the diſſolution it went to the crown; from whence it came to the Preſton family, in whoſe name it remained till it was ſold to Joſhua Lomax, Eſq.

The manor of Winderidge was in the poſſeſſion of Godfred de Bech in the Conqueror's time, part of which he held of the abbot of St. Alban's, and part in his own right. This hamlet was denominated from the ridge of a hill, on which it is ſituated. In Edward III.'s reign it belonged to Joan Pyrrat; and at her death it came to John Peacock. In the time of Henry VI. it was in the poſſeſſion of John Forteſcue, Eſq.; his ſon ſold it to Henry Cock, Eſq. In the reign of Henry VIII. Philippa, his daughter, married Sir Francis Bryan, who held it in her right; and at her death it went to Thomas Law; from whoſe family it came to the crown, where it remained till James I. conveyed it to John Croſby, Eſq.; from this family it paſſed to the Grimſtons.

At the bottom of Holywell-hill, in St. Alban's, on the north-eaſt ſide of the river Meuſe, is Holywell-houſe, the reſidence of the Dowager Counteſs Spencer, who retired here at the death of the late Earl in 1783, and has ſince reſided here continually. The manſion was built by Sarah Ducheſs of Marlborough, into whoſe family the eſtate came by the marriage of a daughter and heireſs of Ralph Rowlet, Eſq., ſheriff in the reign of Henry VIII. There is a kind of cloiſter which forms part

of

of the old building fronting the garden. The grounds here are very beautiful, and the trees are of various deſcriptions, the counteſs being particularly partial to the ſtudy of botany. The well is at the bottom of the garden, whence this place derives its name.

In the borough of St. Alban's are three pariſh churches, beſides the abbey church; one dedicated to St. Stephen, another to St. Peter the Apoſtle, and the third to St. Michael the Archangel.

St. Stephen's church is nearly one mile ſouth-weſt of St. Alban's, and was founded in the tenth century by the abbot Ulſinus. In the chancel ſtands a curious ancient eagle of braſs, which was found buried in the earth on opening the vault of the Montgomery family in 1750. There are many ſepulchral monuments in this church worthy the attention of the curious. Part of this pariſh of St. Stephen belongs to the Earl of Eſſex, and is included in Park manor.

St. Peter's church is ſituated on the north part of the borough, and was valued in the king's books at 9*l.* 8*s.* It has a chancel at the eaſt end, and at the weſt a ſquare tower covered with lead, containing ſix bells, with a ſhort ſpire upon it. The church and churchyard were filled with the bodies of thoſe ſlain at the two bloody battles fought near this town between the houſes of York and Lancaſter: the firſt upon the 23d of May 1455, in which the Yorkiſts gained the victory; the ſecond on Shrove-Tueſday, in the 39th of Henry VI., when the martial Queen Margaret overcame the Yorkiſts, who had then the king in their power, and fought under the ſanction of his name. This church was rebuilt in the time of Henry III., and has ſince undergone many very expenſive alterations.

St. Michael's church is ſituated in the north-weſt part of this town; at the weſt end is a ſquare tower, with four bells; it was valued in the king's books at 10*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* per annum. It contains a remarkably fine ſtatue of Sir Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, erected by Sir Thomas Meautys.

Many improvements have of late years been made in the town of St. Alban's. In 1794 a new road was formed through the ſouth-eaſt part of the town. In 1804 an act of parliament paſſed for the better paving and lighting the ſtreets. Some of the houſes in the higheſt part of the town are very reſpectable buildings. The return made in 1800 of the number of inhabitants was 3038. A ſilk-mill occupies the ſituation of the old abbey-mill, and finds employment for 50 girls. The town-hall is an old building in St. Peter's-ſtreet. It had previouſly been part of the abbey's poſſeſſions,

poſſeſſions, and was called the charnel-houſe. The market-houſe is plain. The croſs is of wood, of an octagonal form, and is ſuppoſed to ſtand on the ſame ſpot where Edward I. built one of thoſe beautiful croſſes to the memory of his beloved Eleanora.

The grammar-ſchool and other houſes of alms are alſo among the buildings of this town.

ABBOTS LANGLEY.

THIS town lies about three miles diſtance from St. Alban's, upon a hill among the woods to the ſouth. Egelwyn the Black and Winfled his wife gave it to the abbots of St. Alban's; from whence it was called Abbots, to diſtinguiſh it from a neighbouring town, and was called Langley from the length of the pariſh, the name ſignifying a long land. In the Confeſſor's reign it was worth 15*l.* per annum. The abbots of this church held the manor till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown, where it remained till Prince Charles held a court here in the reign of James I.; and ſhortly after it was conveyed to Thomas Combe, Eſq., of Hemel Hemſtead; but dying without iſſue in 1641, he bequeathed this manor, with other lands, to Sidney College, Cambridge, and Trinity, Oxford, for the purpoſe of educating his own relations and thoſe of his wife. Nicholas de Brakeſpear, who was the only Engliſhman that ever filled the pontifical chair, was born here. His early years were ſo ill employed, that he was refuſed the habit of a monk of St. Alban's abbey. He went over to Paris, and cultivating his talents there, he was at length made biſhop of Alba, then cardinal, and at length pope, in 1154, under the name of Adrian IV. He died in 1159, not without ſuſpicion of poiſon, and was buried in St. Peter's church.

The manor of Hide was derived from the laſt manor, and ſo denominated from an ancient poſſeſſor. It was ſold to Henry Greenhill of Harrow, in the county of Middleſex, who died in poſſeſſion of it in 1655.

The church is ſituated in the middle of the town, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and dioceſe of London. The vicarage was rated in the king's books at 10*l.* per annum. The church is covered with lead, and has a ſquare tower, with a ſpire upon it, containing five bells. It is ſpacious and handſome, and dedicated to St. Laurence. It contains ſeveral good monuments.

SARRATT.

THIS pariſh lies about four miles diſtant from Abbots Langley towards the ſouth-weſt, which Offa, king of the Mercians, granted to the monaſtery of St. Alban's in 796. It came from Syret, a Saxon, who was an ancient poſſeſſor of it. The abbots and monks held poſſeſſion of it till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown; from whence it was granted to William Ibgrave, who held it of the king in the reign of Edward VI. A fine was levied of this manor by the name of Roſe-hall between William Luddington and Thomas Wanford; ſince which time it was in the poſſeſſion of a perſon of the name of Coiſhut, who lived here; after him the manor came to Francis Kingſley; it continued in this family till William Kingſley ſold it to Thomas Child, whoſe family had it in 1655; from them it came to John Duncomb, Eſq.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 9*l.* per annum; and the lords of the manor are patrons. The church ſtands in the middle of the town, in the deanery of St. Alban's, in the dioceſe of London, in the form of a croſs.

RICKMANSWORTH.

IN ancient records this town was called Rickmereſworth from its ſituation in a nook of land, where the river coming from Cheſham, in the county of Buckingham, falls into the Coln, and forms here a large pool of water. Ric, in the Saxon language, ſignifies rich; mear, a pool; an wearth, a place ſituated between two rivers. It is about three miles diſtant from Sarratt, and twenty-two from London. Offa, king of the Mercians, gave this manor to the abbey of St. Alban's; it was worth 20*l.* per annum in the time of the Confeſſor. Henry III. granted a market here on every Wedneſday. It continued in this monaſtery till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. King Edward VI. granted it to Nicholas Ridley, Biſhop of London, with the rectory and church and appurtenances; but when Queen Mary came to the throne, ſhe deprived him of it and the biſhopric, and granted it to Bonner and his ſucceſſors. The manor afterwards returned to the crown, when Charles I. ſold it to Sir Thomas Fotherley, Knight, whoſe ſon John was ſheriff for the county in the

reign of Charles II. This family became extinct by the death of its poſſeſſor, ſon of the laſt-mentioned perſon, who was ſwallowed up in an earthquake in Jamaica in 1694. He left the reverſion of the manor to his nephew, Temple Whitfield, Eſq., whoſe deſcendant, Henry Fotherley Whitfield, Eſq., is the preſent poſſeſſor. The manſion, which belongs to him, is an irregular building, adjoining the weſt ſide of the churchyard.

The manor of Croſſley was part of the revenues of the abbey of St. Alban's, and upon the diſſolution came to the crown. Queen Elizabeth granted it to Dr. Caius, her phyſician, who added this manor to Gonville and Caius College, in Cambridge; the maſter and fellows of which are the preſent lords.

The manor of the Moor was part of the poſſeſſion of George Nevill, youngeſt ſon of Richard Earl of Warwick and Saliſbury, Biſhop of Exeter in 1455; Chancellor of England in 1460, and Archbiſhop of York in 1466; but afterwards the manor came to the crown, when Henry VII. granted it to John Vere, Earl of Oxford, in reward for his valour at the battle of Boſworth field. It afterwards returned to the crown, and appears to have belonged to Wolſey; after which James I. granted it to —— Woodward and Lucy, Eſqrs., and the heirs of Lucy, in truſt for the Earl of Bedford, who in Charles I.'s reign ſold it to William Earl of Pembroke, who conveyed it to Sir Charles Harbord in truſt, but diſpoſed of the Moor-park eſtate, which had before formed part of the manor, to Robert Cary, Earl of Monmouth, third ſon of Lord Hunſdon. Soon after his death Moor-park was ſold to Sir Richard Franklyn, to whom the manor alſo had been before conveyed. He ſold it to the Earl of Oſſory. The manor of the Moor was afterwards ſold to Sir William Bucknal, of Oxhey. The Moor-houſe eſtate, which belonged to a family named Earl, was purchaſed by Robert Williams, Eſq. Thomas Earl of Oſſory's eldeſt ſon, James, ſold Moor-park to James Duke of Monmouth, ſon of Charles II.; his wife diſpoſed of it to Benjamin Hoſkins Styles, Eſq., in 1720; after his death it was purchaſed by Admiral, afterwards Lord Anſon; his heir ſold it to Sir Laurence Dundas, Bart., in 1765; his ſon in 1787 diſpoſed of it to Thomas Bates Rous, Eſq., who died in 1799. Robert Williams, Eſq., the preſent owner, purchaſed it in the ſame year of his executors. Moor-park-houſe, his ſplendid ſeat, is a magnificent building of the Corinthian order: it fronts north and ſouth, and ſtands in a large woody park, about five miles in circumference. The ground was lowered in front of the houſe, as it intercepted the view, at the expenſe of 5000*l.*, in the year 1725. This

was done by H. B. Styles, who had amaſſed an immenſe fortune by the South Sea ſcheme. The manſion was originally built of brick by the Duke of Monmouth; but Mr. Styles new fronted and caſed it with Portland ſtone, and erected two wings, beſides the portico. The expenſe of his improvements amounted to more than 150,000*l.* It was further improved by Lord Anſon and Sir Laurence Dundas. Mr. Rous pulled down the wings for the purpoſe of diſpoſing of the materials. The houſe, however, remains entire. The park was much improved by Lord Anſon, who laid out 80,000*l.* upon it. A pleaſure-garden of the old formal ſtyle, laid out by Lucy Ducheſs of Bedford, he totally altered. Brown, the celebrated landſcape-gardener, was the perſon employed.

The manor of Michelfield was part of the revenue of the Saxon kings, and Offa gave it, with others, to St. Alban's church. The abbots held it till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown, and ſince to the family of Robinſons, in Suffolk.

The manor of Wood Oaks was the ancient ſeat of the Colts; from that family, by marriage, it came to Sir Benjamin Titchburne, Knight. Here is a very powerful echo above the manor-houſe.

The vicarage was rated in the king's books at 16*l.* per annum. The church is in the deanery of St. Alban's, and dioceſe of London. It has a ſquare tower at the weſt end, with a ſpire erected upon it. It is ſpacious, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The edifice has been conſiderably repaired. Rickmanſworth being ſituated near ſeveral ſtreams, renders it very convenient for trade. Here are ſeveral mills of different deſcriptions. The population amounted to 2975 in the year 1800. It is governed by two conſtables and two headboroughs, and has a charity-ſchool and ſeveral alms-houſes. About three miles north-eaſt of Rickmanſworth were diſcovered, not many years ago, ſeveral veins of ſea-ſand, mixed with muſſels and other ſhells, in cutting through a hill.

WATFORD.

WATFORD is ſituated upon the river Colne, about three miles diſtant from Rickmanſworth towards the north-eaſt, and was ſo called from Wet and Ford at the ſouth end of the town, where was a ford over the Colne. It was part of the endowment of Offa to the monaſtery of St. Alban, and was by ſome ſuppoſed to have been

Wallingford. Before the Conqueſt it was part of Caſhio, and belonged to the abbey till the diſſolution, when the ſtewardſhip of it was given to John Lord Ruſſel, of Chenies, in Buckinghamſhire. James I. granted it to the Lord Chancellor Egerton, Baron of Elleſmere, in whoſe deſcendants, the Dukes of Bridgewater, it remained till the year 1760, when the Earl of Eſſex purchaſed it, and it is now in his deſcendant, the preſent earl.

The prætorian or conſular way made by the Romans in this county, called Watling-ſtreet, croſſes the Colne near it, and paſſes on to Verulam, near St. Alban's. It conſiſts of one very long ſtreet, which is extremely dirty during the winter, and the waters of the river at the entrance of the town are often ſo much ſwelled by the floods as to be impaſſable. Here are ſeveral alms-houſes and other funds for the poor; a charity-ſchool for forty boys, and a free-ſchool built in 1704 by Mrs. Elizabeth Fuller. The charter of the market was granted by Henry I., and Edward IV. gave them the liberty of two fairs annually. The market-houſe is a long building, ſupported on wooden pillars. The quantity of corn ſold here is very great; the police of the town is under the neighbouring magiſtrates. Three ſilk-mills have lately been erected here. The population of Watford is eſtimated at 3530 inhabitants.

The manor of Caſhiobury, according to tradition, was the ancient ſeat of King Caſſibelan, as the name imports, the Caſſii being the ancient inhabitants, and this ſpot was very conveniently ſituated. When the Saxons ſubdued the realm, and divided the government into an heptarchy, this manor was made a ſeat of the ancient kings, and continued in their poſſeſſion till Offa gave it to enrich the abbey of St. Alban's. By the great quantity of land here in their poſſeſſion, it ſeems that all the pariſh of Watford is comprehended within it; ſince which time many princes have confirmed the grants made to the abbey. The abbey enjoyed poſſeſſion of it till the diſſolution, when Henry VIII. conveyed it to Richard Morriſon, Eſq., who was employed in many ſtate affairs by that ſovereign, and died in 1556 at Straſburgh. His grandſon was created knight of the bath at the coronation of Charles I.; his only daughter and heireſs conveyed the eſtate in marriage to Arthur Capel, Lord Capel of Hadham, in this county, from whom the preſent Earl of Eſſex is deſcended. The family of Capel had long been eſtabliſhed at Stoke Neyland, in Suffolk. Sir William Capel was lord mayor of London in 1503. He became the object of plunder to Empſon and Dudley, the venal miniſters of Henry VII., and

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was obliged to pay 2000*l.* as a fine; and being again called upon to pay a ſimilar ſum, was impriſoned till the king's death. He died in 1509. His ſon was a valiant champion. The late earl died in 1799. George, his eldeſt ſon, the preſent earl, aſſumed the name of Coningſby on ſucceeding to the eſtates of his grandmother Frances, daughter of Thomas Earl of Coningſby.

The manſion-houſe at Caſhiobury is a very ſpacious building, in an extenſive park, well wooded with timber, through which the river Gade flows; and acroſs which, by the conſent of the earl, the Grand Junction canal has been carried. Richard Morriſon, Eſq., in the reign of Henry VIII., began to erect the houſe, which his ſon completed. It has been much altered and improved of late by the preſent poſſeſſor. The whole manſion and offices have the appearance of a caſtellated dwelling. There are a kind of cloiſters, the windows of which have been ornamented with ſtained glaſs. The houſe contains ſome very valuable paintings. The park is between three and four miles in circumference. About two miles north of Watford is Ruſſel-farm, the late reſidence of Lady Ann Capel, now the property of the Earl of Eſſex; it has been let to General Roſs.

The manor of the Grove was the ancient ſeat of the Haydons. John Haydon died poſſeſſed of it in 1408. From this family it came, after a conſiderable length of time, to the family of Hamptons of Buckinghamſhire, who diſpoſed of it to Robert Aſhton, Eſq., and through various hands it paſſed to the Hydes Earls of Clarendon, the deſcendants of the great Lord Chancellor Hyde, the hiſtorian of the civil wars. It is now the property of Thomas Villers, Earl of Clarendon. The manſion is an irregular building on the weſt ſide of the Gade, in a park about three miles in circumference, through which a divided ſtream flows. The houſe contains ſome valuable paintings. The Earl of Clarendon is particularly attached to agriculture, and cultivates about 600 acres; the ſoil is a ſharp gravel.

The manor of Garſton was purchaſed about the latter end of Edward IV.'s reign by the abbot Whethamſtead for the monaſtery of St. Alban's; it continued there till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown; from whence it was granted to Richard and John Randoll, who held it in the reign of Edward VI. by the yearly rent of 1*l.* 8*s.*; from whom it came to Robert Carle; this family ſold it to John Marſh, Eſq.

The manor of Meriden was another parcel of the revenue of the church of St. Alban's, which the abbots enjoyed till the diſſolution, when, upon its coming to the crown,

crown, it was granted to Anthony Denny, Eſq. Lord Denny, in the reign of James I., a deſcendant of the former, ſold it to Robert Briſcoe, Eſq., of Aldenham, in this county. He alienated it to Thomas Ewre of the Lea, deſcended from a family of that name, of Huntingbridge, in Abbots Langley.

The manor of Caroland was a ſmall manor, another part of the poſſeſſions of the abbey of St. Alban's; and coming to the crown upon the diſſolution, it was afterwards conveyed to the warden and fellows of Merton College, in Oxford, who are the preſent poſſeſſors.

The manor of Bryſton was part of the revenue of Offa, which he gave to the monaſtery of St. Alban's, which held it till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown; and Henry VIII. conveyed it to Anthony Denny, Eſq.; from whom it paſſed as the manor of Meriden did, until it came to the family of Kentiſh; from that family by marriage it paſſed to Godman Jenkins, Eſq., of Harpenden, and Thomas Nicholl, Gent., of Buſhy.

The manor of Oxey was ſo called from Sir Richard de Oxey, Knight, who granted to St. Alban's all his lands here, which that abbey held till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown; from whence it probably was conveyed to —— Haydon, Eſq. One of that family ſold it to Sir James Altham, Knight, lord chief baron of the Exchequer. He left a daughter, married to John Lord Vaughan, Earl of Carberry, who poſſeſſed it in her right, and ſold it to John Haydon, Eſq., afterwards knighted; he ſold it to Sir William Bucknal, who built a good houſe here.

The rectory was granted to John Lord Ruſſel in the time of Henry VI.; from whom it paſſed to the Morriſons, and from them to Lord Capel; from him it deſcended to the Earl of Eſſex. The vicarage was valued in the king's books at 21*l.* 11*s.* per annum, of which the abbots of St. Alban's were patrons; but ſince the advowſon has paſſed with the manor, the Earls of Eſſex have been patrons. The church is ſituated in the middle of the town, and is a ſpacious building, dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it conſiſts of a nave, aiſles, and chancel, with a large embattled tower at the weſt end, about eighty feet high, terminating in a ſmall ſpire, which riſes about twenty more. On the north ſide of the chancel is the chapel or cemetery of the Morriſons, and now of the Eſſex family. The monument of Sir Charles Morriſon is particularly good, as is that of his ſon. The church contains an organ, the gallery of which is very large, ſupported on four Corinthian pillars. There are many benefactions to the pariſh. Thomas Baldwin gave one third of the profits

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ariſing from the ſprings of Hyde-park, which was his ſhare of thoſe ſprings, to the poor of Watford; the profits then aroſe to 40*l.* per annum. Mrs. Mary Cowper granted a rent-charge of 50*l.* per annum iſſuing out of lands to the vicar of Watford. Mrs. Dorothy Morriſon gave 52*l.* per annum iſſuing out of a farm for the purpoſe of putting out poor children to be apprentices. Francis Combes gave 10*l.* per annum. Mrs. Mary Cowper alſo gave 10*l.* to the poor. Lady Morriſon gave 30*l.* for a preacher to read a ſermon every Tueſday afternoon at the church. The Morriſon family alſo erected ſeveral alms-houſes which they endowed.

ALDENHAM.

OFFA gave this pariſh to his monaſtery of St. Alban's, by the name of Eldenham, which ſignifies an ancient ſeat; it was only worth 15*s.* a year in the time of Edward the Confeſſor. At the time of the Conqueſt the abbot of Weſtminſter uſurped it for ſeveral years, under pretence of clearing a wood, which was near the town, as a remuneration for his undertaking; nor did he yield it up till his death. The manor came to the crown at the diſſolution, when Henry VIII. granted it with the advowſon to Henry Stepney; his ſon conveyed them to Sir Edward Cary, Knight; his ſon was created Viſcount Falkland, and was Viceroy of Ireland. Lucius, his ſon and heir, ſold this manor to Sir Job Harbey, Knight, in 1641; created a baronet afterwards. Sir Eraſmus, his ſon, was obliged to ſell it to pay his debts, contracted during the troubles of Charles I., to Denzil Lord Hollis, ambaſſador to France, in 1663; his ſon ſucceeded him, then Denzil: and from him it came to John Hollis, who in James I.'s reign was created Marquis of Clare and Duke of Newcaſtle.

Pens-place is a ſmall manor, ſituated upon the common, where Henry Coghill, Eſq., built a good brick houſe. He was ſheriff for the county in 1673.

Pickets or Newbury is another ſmall manor, which William Briſcoe, one of the yeomen of the guard, held here; upon his death it came to his ſon.

The church is valued in the king's books at 24*l.* per annum. It is ſituated about the middle of the town, upon a hill, in the dioceſe of London, near Berry Grove, which was probably the wood which the abbots of Weſtminſter and St. Alban's contended for. The church contains three aiſles, with two chancels leaded, and a ſquare tower at the weſt end, with a ſpire, containing ſix bells.

ELSTRE.

AMONG other eſtates this was one which Offa granted to the monaſtery of St. Alban's, by the name of Eagleſtree, from a grove where it was ſuppoſed that eagles uſually bred; for although the place is now heathy, yet formerly it was very woody, ſo much that it is not mentioned in Domeſday-book. Upon the diſſolution it came to the crown, when Henry VIII. granted it to Anthony Denny, Eſq. It continued in this family till the reign of James I., when this manor, called Parkbury, was ſold to Robert Briſcoe of Aldenham, who granted it, with the view of frankpledge and court-baron, to Sir Baptiſt Hicks, reſerving to himſelf and heirs that part of the court-baron which lies within this pariſh. It paſſed through various hands afterwards, and is now the property of George Byng, Eſq., M. P.

The rectory was valued in the king's books at 8*l.* per annum, of which the crown has been patron ſince the diſſolution of monaſteries. The church is ſituated near the ſtreet upon a great hill, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and dioceſe of London, and conſiſts of a body and one aiſle. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas. The Rev. James Hackman, who ſhot Miſs Ray at Covent-garden theatre while getting into her carriage, for which he was hanged at Tyburn, was buried in this church.

Sulloniacæ was a large Roman ſtation here, ſituated in the Watling ſtreet or road, which is mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus; and here was a famous city at that time. Many coins, urns, and Roman bricks, have been dug up here. At a place called Penney-well, near Brockley-hill, there are ſtill viſible the foundations of ſeveral walls.

CHIPPING BARNET.

IN the Saxons' time this place was a large wood, granted to the church of St. Alban's, by the names of the woods of Suthaw, Borham, and Huzehege; the name of Barnet was given to it from its ſituation on a hill, the word in the Saxon language ſignifying a hill; it had afterwards the name of Chipping added to it from the market where goods are cheapened, which Henry II. granted to the abbot of St. Alban's to be held here, and was famous for cattle. The market is held here on Wedneſday; and there are ſix annual fairs, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of April, for toys; and 4th, 5th, and 6th of September, for Engliſh, Welſh, and Scotch cattle. It is ten

miles from London, on the great north road, and is well ſupplied with inns. The place is remarkable for a bloody battle fought here on Eaſter-day in 1468 between the houſes of York and Lancaſter, in which the great Earl of Warwick was killed, together with many of the principal nobility, and 10,000 men. The place ſuppoſed to have been the field of battle is a green ſpot, called Gladſmore-heath, near Kicks-end, between the St. Alban's and Hatfield roads, a ſhort diſtance before they meet; and here in 1740 a ſtone column was erected, on which is a long inſcription, giving an account of the battle; it was erected by Sir Jeremy Sambrook. Near the race-ground on Barnet-common is a mineral ſpring, diſcovered about the middle of the ſeventeenth century; it is now not much uſed.

The manor of Barnet, which includes the whole pariſh, together with that of Eaſt Barnet, anciently belonged to St. Alban's abbey. Upon the diſſolution it came to the crown, where it remained till Queen Mary gave it to Anthony Butler, Eſq., whoſe deſcendants granted it to Sir John Weld in 1619, who demiſed it to Sir James Stonhouſe and others. It ſoon after went through the hands of Small and Urmſton, Gents., who alienated it to Thomas Munday, Eſq.; in Charles II.'s reign, he granted it to John Elſome, and he to John Latten, Eſq., who ſold it to John Nicolls, of Hendon-place, Middleſex. In 1695 John Nicolls, Eſq., ſold it to Sir Thomas Cooke, Knight. It is now the property of Edward Beeſton Long, Eſq., in right of his wife, grand-daughter and ſole heireſs of John Thomlinſon, Eſq., who died in 1767.

The church is ſituated in the middle of the town, and contains three aiſles divided, with four arches on each ſide of the middle aiſle; there is a chancel at the eaſt end, and a ſmall chapel or veſtry-houſe, built by Thomas Ravenſcroft, Eſq.; at the ſouth end is a ſquare tower, containing five bells, and a ſhort ſpire. It is no more than a chapel of eaſe to Eaſt Barnet, and has the ſame miniſter, who finds a curate to do the duty. The church was built about the year 1400 by John Moot, abbot of St. Alban's. In the chancel is a monument to Thomas Ravenſcroft, Eſq.; his family have erected alms-houſes here, and an hoſpital for ſix poor women. The annual endowment of it is about 75*l.* per annum. Another was alſo erected for ſix poor women by John Garrett, Gent., in 1723, who left 800*l.* for that purpoſe. The number of inhabitants under the population act of Barnet is 1258. Queen Elizabeth erected a free-ſchool here, and endowed it; the endowment has been ſince increaſed by other benefactors.

EAST

EAST BARNET.

IN the time of the Conqueror this pariſh was part of Chipping Barnet, and no mention of it is made in Domeſday-book. It has been ſince diſtinguiſhed from the other by the name of Eaſt, from its ſituation about a mile eaſtward among the hills, and is now part of the former manor, with which it has always paſſed. George Hadley, Eſq., erected a neat ſeat in this pariſh: he was ſheriff of the county in William and Mary's reign. Another ſeat belonged to Sir John Wolf, ſheriff of London and Middleſex in 1696; it is called Pricklers.

The church is ſituated in the middle of the pariſh, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and dioceſe of London; and is rated at the value of 22*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* per annum. It is a rectory. The chancel was rebuilt in 1663.

NORTHAW.

THIS pariſh was waſte ground at the time of the Conqueſt, and was a wood belonging to St. Alban's monaſtery. Peter de Valoines had a grant of it from the abbot of that monaſtery, and kept it contrary to agreement; by which means the abbey loſt the right of it for ſome time. It was at length determined that the abbot had the property, and by a deciſion of the court, Robert de Valoines, Peter's ſucceſſor, was obliged to make reſtitution and compenſation for the injury. The abbot and monks after this quietly enjoyed poſſeſſion of it till the diſſolution; when Henry VIII. granted it, with others, to William Cavendiſh, who, in Edward VI.'s reign, conveyed it to Sir Ambroſe Dudley. He was attainted of high treaſon in Elizabeth's reign, but reſtored in Queen Mary's. He erected here a ſtately manſion, and ornamented it with gardens, grounds, and plantations. Shortly after the manor came to Lord Ruſſel of Thornhaugh, and after him to Richard Sidley, Eſq., who in 1624 was ſheriff of the county. William, his ſon and heir, ſold it to William Leman, Eſq., ſheriff of the county in 1645, and member of parliament for Hertford. The preſent poſſeſſor of the manor is —— Strode, Eſq.

The church is a donative, and the lord of the manor is the patron. It is erected in the deanery of St. Alban's, in the dioceſe of London. Sir William Leman

added a tower to it at the weſt end. The body of the church has been taken down, and is now rebuilding; the old tower is to remain. Here are ſome charitable donations; Richard Cotter gave 50*l.* to the poor; Babbington Stanley alſo gave 50*l.*; and others have given ſmall benefactions.

RIDGE.

THIS was probably waſte ground at the time of the Conqueſt belonging to ſome of the adjacent pariſhes: it took the name from the place where the church has been erected on the ſide of a hill: it belonged to the monaſtery of St. Alban. John de Moot founded a new and ſtately manſion about the end of the fourteenth century in Tittenhanger in this pariſh: it was afterwards adorned and enlarged by the abbot Whethamſted, in Henry VI.'s reign, and it remained in that monaſtery till the diſſolution, when, coming to the crown, Henry VIII. granted it to Sir Hugh Paulett, whoſe daughter and heireſs married Sir Thomas Pope, founder of Trinity College, Oxford, who had been enriched by many grants of lands from the diſſolved monaſteries. He made Tittenhanger his chief reſidence, and, dying without iſſue in 1559, left it to his widow, daughter of William Blount, Eſq., of Blount-hall, Staffordſhire. Her nephew, Thomas Pope Blount, ſucceeded; and from him the eſtate has deſcended to the preſent Earl of Hardwicke in right of his mother, ſhe being the ſole heireſs of the Pope, Blount, and Freeman families of Hertfordſhire. The Blounts became extinct by the death of Sir Henry Pope Blount about the middle of the laſt century. The preſent manſion was built by the firſt Sir Henry Pope Blount in 1654, and is now the ſeat of the Right Honourable Charles Yorke, next brother to the Earl of Hardwicke. The park is made into a farm; the houſe is large.

The church is valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH.

THIS pariſh took its name from the ſaint to whom the church is dedicated. The abbey of St. Alban's held it till the diſſolution, when, upon its coming to the crown, Henry VIII. granted it to Sir Anthony Denny. It continued with them till Edward Lord Denny conveyed it to Robert Briſcoe, Eſq., who in 1607 ſold it to Sir Baptiſt

Hicks and William Topperly, and the heirs of Sir Baptiſt, who, being a rich merchant of London, built a good houſe in the ſtreet called St. John's-ſtreet, which was called Hicks's-hall. His daughter marrying Sir Charles Morriſon, the manor was conveyed to him. Sir Charles's daughter marrying Arthur Lord Capel of Hadham, the manor came by deſcent to the preſent Earl of Eſſex.

The church has been already deſcribed under St. Alban's.

ABSA, now APESBURY.

IN the time of the Conqueror this manor was in the poſſeſſion of the abbey of St. Alban's, and was worth 40*s*. in the time of the Confeſſor. The abbots and monks held it till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown; upon which Henry VIII. granted it to Ralph Rowlet and his heirs. It afterwards came to the Briſcoe family of London Colney.

The church was erected upon a hill by Ulſin, or Ulſig, one of the abbots of St. Alban's, in 950, in the reign of King Ethelred. It is in the deanery of St. Alban's, and dioceſe of London; and is rated in the king's books at 15*l*. per annum. The church has a ſmall tower at the weſt end, with a ſhort ſpire upon it.

Park-ward was denominated from the manor of Park, rated ſeparately by itſelf from any other place, and is part of this manor.

Sleepe and Smallford are other hamlets, part of the manor of Park, which lie in the pariſh of St. Peter's, in the town of St. Alban's; but are alſo rated by themſelves from any other part of the pariſh; and are chargeable by the high conſtable of this diviſion.

Tittenhanger is alſo a ſmall hamlet here, but chargeable by itſelf, and laid to this diviſion.

St. Michael's is one of the three pariſhes of St. Alban's already treated of; the pariſh extending out of the town is chargeable in all taxes to this diviſion.

Windridge-ward comprehends the manor of Windridge in St. Alban's; it is part of the pariſh of St. Michael, where the church is erected; it is rateable diſtinctly by itſelf from the pariſh, and is charged in this diviſion.

REDBURNE.

REDBURNE.

THIS is a conſiderable village, extending about half a mile on the road to Dunſtable, and is chiefly indebted to travellers for ſupport. Egelwine the Black and Wincelfled his wife, with the conſent of Edward the Confeſſor, gave it to the abbey of St. Alban's; it was then worth 16*l.* per annum. This place was famous for the reliques of Amphibalus, to whom St. Alban gave ſhelter, and which were found here. They were tranſlated to St. Alban's monaſtery, where a magnificent ſhrine was erected for their reception. The town ſtands upon the military highway called Watling-ſtreet. The manor continued in the abbey till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. It is now the property of Lord Viſcount Grimſton, having paſſed to that nobleman from the Rowlets in the ſame manner as Gorhambury. The church was rebuilt by the abbot Whethamſted, in the reign of Henry VI. It ſtands at ſome diſtance from the village to the weſt, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and dioceſe of London; and is rated in the king's books at 16*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* per annum. Lord Grimſton is patron. A ſmall priory of Benedictines was founded here about 1195, and dedicated to St. Amphibalus. The number of inhabitants amounts to 1153.

The manor of Aignell borrowed its name from John de Aignell, who was lord of it in the reign of Edward II. John of Whethamſted purchaſed the manor in the reign of Edward IV. for the church of St. Alban's, in which it remained till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown, and was conveyed to John Cocks, who held it in the reign of Edward VI.; from which family it came to that of Beſouth, in whom it remained till Francis King, Gent., by the marriage of one of the daughters and heireſs of John Beſouth, came into poſſeſſion of it.

SANDRIDGE.

THIS pariſh was part of the revenues of the Mercian kings. Egfrid, ſon of Offa, gave it to St. Alban's abbey. It derives the name from the ſoil of the place, which is very ſandy: and age, in the Saxon language, ſignifies the ſervice of bond tenants. In the Confeſſor's reign it was worth 18*l.* a year. It continued in the monaſtery till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. Henry VIII. gave it to Ralph

Ralph Rowlet, Eſq. Ralph Jennings, Eſq., who married his daughter, then had it. He was of Church, in the county of Somerſet. Upon the death of Ralph Jennings, Eſq., his deſcendant, Sarah Counteſs of Marlborough, who was his ſiſter and coheireſs, came to this eſtate, which by deſcent went to the Duke of Marlborough.

The vicarage is in the deanery of St. Alban, and dioceſe of London; and is rated in the king's books at 8*l.* per annum. The lord of the manor is patron.

CUDDICOT.

THIS pariſh was part of the ancient poſſeſſions of the monaſtery of St. Alban's, to which it belonged at the time of the Conqueſt. At that time it belonged to the hundred of Broadwater; the name ſignifies a place for ſheep, or ſmall cottage. Henry III. granted a fair here to the abbot yearly, and a market every Friday.

The manor of Siſſeverne was poſſeſſed by Henry Chevall in the reign of Edward I. It continued in this family till in the reign of Henry VIII. John Penn marrying Lucy, daughter of Edmund Chevall, came into poſſeſſion of it. Thomas Penn in 1659 conveyed it to George Poyner, citizen and merchant of London; he built a houſe here, and died in 1670. The cuſtom of taking ſurrenders in this manor is the ſame as in Park manor.

The rectory was appropriated to the uſe of the monaſtery of St. Alban's by Pope Honorius in the year 1218, and the abbots were patrons till the diſſolution, when Henry VIII. granted the advowſon of the vicarage to the biſhops of Ely and ſucceſſors; it is rated at 7*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books. The church ſtands on a dry hill near the manor-houſe, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and dioceſe of London. At the weſt end is a ſquare tower, with five bells. In Mr. Penn's grounds grew a walnut-tree in 1627 of that extent, that the branches covered 76 poles of ground. He had at that time of day been frequently offered 50*l.* for the tree.

BRANDFIELD.

THIS place was given by the Conqueror to Hardwyn d'Eſcalers, who granted it to the abbey of St. Alban's. Thomas à Becket is reported to have poſſeſſed this

benefice as his firſt piece of preferment. A ſmall pond here is ſtill called after his name. After the diſſolution the manor was given to George Dacres, Eſq.; he ſold it to John Foſter, who granted it to Edward Skegg, Eſq., who conveyed it to John Smith, Eſq., in Elizabeth's reign; his ſon ſold it to Sir Henry Boteler, whoſe ſon was created Baron Boteler, of Brandfield, in the fourth year of Charles I.'s reign. William Lord Boteler left ſeveral ſiſters coheireſſes; by one of them it came to George Viſcount Grandiſon of Ireland, who purchaſed the remaining intereſt in the eſtate, which had been divided. By the marriage of Lady Gertrude Emilia Villiers, heireſs, and only daughter of George Maſon Villiers Earl Grandiſon, who died in 1800, with Lord Henry Stuart, third ſon of the Marquis of Bute, this eſtate came into his lordſhip's poſſeſſion. Brandfield-place is a very agreeable, though ſmall retirement.

The rectory was a donative, and the abbot and convent of St. Alban's received the profit of it, and found a curate to perform the duty: but ſince the diſſolution the lords of the manor have been the patrons. The church ſtands in the middle of the pariſh, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and in the dioceſe of London: it conſiſts only of a body, with a ſmall chancel at the eaſt end.

SHEEPHALL.

THIS pariſh was ſo called from its paſtures, which were very productive, and the quality wholeſome for the feeding of ſheep. It was part of the ancient monaſtery of St. Alban. Stigand Archbiſhop of Canterbury, in the time of the Conqueror, held ſome land here under the abbot, as appears from Domeſday-book: it was at that time in Broadwater hundred; and in the time of the Confeſſor was worth 4*l.* per annum. It continued in this abbey till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. Henry VIII. conveyed it to George Nodes, formerly tenant to it under the laſt abbot; he was ſerjeant of the buckhounds to that king, Edward VI., and Mary and Elizabeth; and in his family it remained a very conſiderable time.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 9*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, and the lord of the manor is the patron. Here are ſeveral monuments and inſcriptions to the Nodes family.

THE

The Hundred of Dacorum.

IN the time of the Conqueror this hundred was divided by the names of Danais and Treung hundreds; but about the reign of Edward III. they were united into one, now called Dacorum; which name it aſſumed from the Danes, who were formerly its inhabitants. It was originally part of the king's revenue; the ſheriffs and commiſſioners for the king's taxes keep their ſeſſions and public meetings at Hemel Hempſtead. The hundred is bounded on the north and eaſt with the hundreds of Caiſho and Broadwater, on the ſouth by Middleſex, and on the weſt by Buckinghamſhire; and contains ſeveral pariſhes and hamlets, which are divided between three high conſtables. In the firſt diviſion are the pariſhes and hamlets of Wheathampſtead, Harpenden, North Mimms, Shenley, Theobald-ſtreet, Leveſden, and Buſhy, which lie diſperſed from the reſt. The ſecond diviſion contains King's Langley, Hemel Hempſtead, Bovingdon, Flaunders, Little Gadeſden, Friſden, Great Gadeſden, Studham, Kenſworth, Cadington, and Flamſtead. In the third diviſion are, Berkhampſtead, North Church, Aldebury, Tring, Wigington, Long Marſton, Wilſterne, Puttenham, and Coleſhill.

WHEATHAMPSTEAD.

THIS place derives its name from the quantity of excellent wheat which it affords. The chief manor was part of the poſſeſſions of Edward the Confeſſor, which he employed in proviſions for his table, until he gave it to the abbey and convent of Weſtminſter, who held it in the time of the Conqueror: it was then worth 30*l.* a year. In Domeſday-book it is recorded as Watameſtede: it is ſtill in the poſſeſſion of the dean and chapter of Weſtminſter. It was at Wheathampſtead that the barons, who confederated againſt Edward II. and his favourite Gaveſton, aſſembled their forces. This place gave birth to the celebrated abbot John Boſtock, ſurnamed De Whethampſted, who was educated at Glouceſter College, Oxford. The number of inhabitants here, under the late act, amounted to 1043.

The manor of Lamere takes its name from an ancient family. Pontius Lamere was lord of it in the reign of Henry III. It is ſituated upon a dry hill. It came in

proceſs of time to Sir William Roche, lord mayor of London in 1545. His daughter marrying Sir John Boteler, of Woodhall, in this county, it came to his poſſeſſion; and his ſon ſold it to Sir William Garrard, of Sittingbourne, in Kent. Sir Bennet Garrard, his deſcendant, dying in 1767 without iſſue, the eſtate devolved on the deſcendants of Jane, daughter of an uncle of Sir John Garrard, Bart.; which lady married Montagu Drake of Shardeloes, in Buckinghamſhire, and was grandmother to William Drake, Eſq., M. P. for Amerſham. His younger ſon, Charles Drake Garrard, Eſq., brother to T. D. T. Drake, Eſq., of Amerſham, is the preſent poſſeſſor of the eſtate; the manſion-houſe of which is a handſome building, ſituated on an eminence.

The rectory was a meſnalty, derived out of the manor of Wheathampſtead, and is ſituated in the deanery of Berkhamſtead, in the dioceſe of Lincoln. This rectory, with the chapel of Harpingdon, was rated at 42*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* in the king's books, of which the king is patron. The church is on the weſt ſide of the town, built after the manner of a cathedral, having a croſs and tower in the middle, with a ſpire and balcony round the middle of the ſpire. It is dedicated to St. Helen. Here are ſome handſome monuments of the Garrard family, and ſome to the Brockets and Seventhorpes.

HARPINGDON.

THIS pariſh is ſituated about three miles diſtant from Wheathampſtead, upon a hill towards the ſouth; it is a hamlet belonging to that pariſh, and was waſte ground in the time of William the Conqueror, as there is no mention made of it in Domeſday-book; but upon the improvement in the lands, the Hoos, an ancient family in the county, came into poſſeſſion of them. In 1292 Robert Hoo was lord of it. It continued in this family till it was ſold to Matthew Creſſy in the reign of Edward IV.; in this family it remained for many deſcents, till it came to William Creſſy, who died in 1558. His ſon Edmund left an only daughter, married to Edmund Bardolfe. Richard Bardolfe ſold it to Sir John Witherong, Bart., in whoſe family it remained ſome time.

The manor of Anabull was ſo called from William Anabull, who held it, and was lord of it in the reign of Henry VI. Chriſtopher Smith held it in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The

The church is a neat building, ſituated near the town, with a ſquare tower adjoining the weſt end, and a ſhort ſpire upon it. It is a chapel of eaſe to Wheathampſtead.

NORTH MIMMS.

THIS pariſh lies about eight miles ſouth of Wheathampſtead, diſperſed among other towns of Caſhio hundred. William the Conqueror granted it to Robert Biſhop of Cheſter. In the Confeſſor's time it was worth 10*l.* per annum. In a ſhort time after this it came into the poſſeſſion of Geoffrey de Mandeville; he erected the church, and gave the tithes to the ſupport of the great abbey, which he founded at Walden in Eſſex, and died in 1144. This manor after that paſſed as thoſe of Sawbridgeworth and Gedleſton did till the name was extinguiſhed, when it came to Beatrice, wife of William Say, next heir of that line. Some years after this the manor came into the poſſeſſion of Sir Robert Knolles, who had advanced from a low fortune by a military courſe of life to a large eſtate. He lived in the reign of Edward III. It afterwards paſſed to the Coningſbys by the marriage of a female and coheireſs, and from them by purchaſe to Sir Nicholas Hyde, Bart., whoſe granddaughter conveyed it in marriage to Peregrine Oſborne, Duke of Leeds: ſince the death of the late duke, who died in 1799, Henry Brown, Eſq., has become the poſſeſſor; his ſeat here, at North Mimms park, is very rich in ſcenery, with an excellent manſion-houſe.

The manor of Brookmans was formerly derived from the manor of North Mimms. It is held by fealty and rent. Sir Paul Pindar is the firſt lord to be met with who had poſſeſſion of it; and at his death it was ſold to Sir William Dudley, who in 1666 conveyed it to Andrew Fountain of Saul, in the county of Norfolk. He built a good houſe here in 1682, from whence is a beautiful view over Eſſex in front, and from the weſt, which is the back part, over Bedfordſhire. It has juriſdiction of court-baron only, and lies within the leet of North Mimms. Lord Somers had poſſeſſion of it afterwards; from whom it came to the deſcendants of his eldeſt ſiſter, married to Charles Cocks, Eſq., whoſe family have ſince been created peers. It is now the property of S. R. Gauſſen, Eſq.

The manor of Potterels was ſo called from an owner of that name, and is a manor of itſelf, or part of the demeſne of ſome adjacent manor; it was in the family of

Coningſby; within it is a place called the Dale, in a wood ſurrounded with trees; and when any rains fall, a great flow of waters runs into a place called Kiteſburne, and thence runs in a channel through the woods to this bottom, where the water drains through ſmall holes in the ground, and is ſuppoſed to run by certain wells near the church at about half a mile's diſtance.

The manor of Gobions is ſo termed from the ancient lords of it, of whom Sir Richard Gobion was ſeated here in the reign of King Stephen. In Henry VII.'s reign Sir John More poſſeſſed it, father of the famous Sir Thomas More, whoſe family had inherited it for ſeveral generations. It was ſeized afterwards by Henry VIII., with his other eſtates, and ſettled on the Princeſs Elizabeth, who retained it till her death; after which it again came into the More family; but ſince has paſſed through various hands. It was lately the property of John Hunter, Eſq., director of the Eaſt India Company. The gardens were once celebrated for their beauty.

The church is in the deanery of Berkhampſtead, and dioceſe of Lincoln; it has a ſquare tower, and five bells. The vicarage is rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 10*l.*

SHENLEY.

SHENLEY is ſituated about four miles diſtant from St. Alban's to the ſouth, and in the reign of the Conqueror the church of St. Alban's and Geoffrey de Mandeville held it. It chiefly conſiſts of a few buildings near the church. After Geoffrey de Mandeville, who gave the great tithes to the church of Walden in Eſſex, it came to his ſon; and from him to Adam de Stratton, chief baron of the Exchequer, and Walter de Mereden: Adam de Stratton being attainted, the manor came to the crown, where it remained till the reign of Edward III., when it was conveyed to John Poultney, lord mayor of London in 1331. Stephen Ewre and Joſhua Lomax, whom we have frequently mentioned before, and who were attornies at law, great purchaſers of landed eſtates, in the reign of Charles II., bought this eſtate. It remained in the poſſeſſion of the Lomax family, of whom Joſhua was ſheriff of the county in the above reign.

Porters is a manor here, and the beautiful reſidence of the Marchioneſs of Sligo, daughter of that great naval officer Richard Lord Howe: it is an irregular houſe, but

but is ſituated in a very pleaſant, though ſmall park, whence it commands ſome beautiful proſpects. The eſtate was formerly part of the manor of the Weald, and has had various poſſeſſors.

Colney-houſe in this pariſh is the ſeat of George Anderſon, Eſq.; it is about a mile to the ſouth-weſt of London Colney. The eſtate was alſo part of the Weald, and had the name of Colney chapel, which ſtood in the park formerly, and is ſtill ſurrounded by a moat. The preſent manſion was built by Governor Bourchier about twenty-five years ſince, at the coſt of 53,000*l.*, including the expenſes attending the pleaſure-grounds. The park contains 150 acres. The houſe is a handſome building, with two wings and two fronts. The preſent owner purchaſed it of the Earl of Kingſton, who bought it of the Margrave of Anſpach, who reſided here about three years.

The church is dedicated to St. Botolph, and conſiſts of an oblong body, without either tower or aiſles. Stephen Ewre and Joſhua Lomax ſold the rectory in 1682 from the manor to Thomas Laundre, vicar. The vicarage is rated in the king's books at 16*l.* 8*s.* per annum. The parſonage-houſe is pleaſantly ſituated about two miles from the church ſouthward, on a hill. The preſent rector was nephew to the Rev. Peter Newcome, hiſtorian of St. Alban's abbey, who was alſo rector here, and to whoſe family the patronage belongs. The church is in the deanery of Berkhampſtead and dioceſe of Lincoln.

THEOBALD-STREET.

THIS place was called Titteberſt in Domeſday-book. In the time of William Rufus, Hugh de Titteberſt gave all his lands here to St. Alban's abbey; and William Racon gave all his poſſeſſions here to the ſame monaſtery in the reign of Henry I.

Leveſden is a hamlet, charged by itſelf to the king's taxes, and is part of this hundred, though part of the pariſh and manor of Watford, moſt of which lies in the hundred of Caiſho.

BUSHY.

BUSHY.

THIS parish was originally called De Dumis, from the bushes with which the woods abounded here formerly. It was one of the manors which William the Conqueror gave to Geoffrey de Mandeville. In the reign of the Confessor it was worth 15*l.* a year. In the time of Henry III. the manor belonged to David de Jarpinville; it shortly after came to the crown, when Edward III. granted it to Edmund of Woodstock, his third brother, Earl of Kent, who was beheaded, by the influence of Queen Isabella and her paramour Mortimer. From this time it descended in the same manner as the manor of Ware, till it became vested in the crown again by the death of Margaret Countess of Salisbury in the reign of Henry VIII. Queen Mary granted it to Sir Thomas Hastings, Knight; from that family it passed through different hands till it came to the Earl of Essex. It is now the property of John Capper, Esq., who has a charming seat here, called Wiggan-hall, and whose family purchased it about the commencement of the last century.

The manor of Bourne-hall was in the possession of Sir Thomas Barnard in Edward II.'s reign, who disposed of it to John de Wengrave, citizen of London. In Henry V.'s reign Reginald de West possessed it. It continued in this family, who were afterwards created Lords De la Ware, till the reign of Elizabeth, when it came to a family of the name of Hickman; and from them to John Mayne, Esq., of Bovingdon. His youngest daughter married Sir William Glascock, Knight, in Charles II.'s reign, to whom she conveyed this manor; they sold it to George Hadley, Esq., of East Barnet. Sir George Walker, Knight, built a good house upon the river Colne here; and afterwards sold it to Robert Marsham, Esq., in whom it remained, and who was afterwards a baronet. The house was large, and the gardens well laid out.

The church is a small building, in the deanery of St. Alban's, and diocese of London. The rectory is rated in the king's books at 18*l.* 2*s.* per annum. The houses of Bushy are chiefly situated on the high road, and the number of inhabitants 856.

KING'S

KING'S LANGLEY.

THIS manor was given to Earl Moreton, a Norman baron, who came over with William the Conqueror, and was by him rewarded with this for his ſervices. In the reign of the Confeſſor it was worth 8*l.* William, ſon of this earl, raiſed a rebellion againſt Henry I., and by that means forfeited this manor, which came to the crown. Henry III. erected a royal palace here, from whence it derived the name of King's Langley. Very few traces of this building are now viſible; they are chiefly confined to a foundation-wall, which occupies a conſiderable piece of ground, and proves the building to have been ſquare. Part of the ſite is now occupied by a farm-houſe. Its ſituation is high and agreeable. The eſtate conſiſts of about ſix or ſeven acres, and is the property of Mrs. King. While the palace remained in royal hands, it was frequently the ſeat of the kings. Richard II. was buried here, after his murder at Pontefract by Sir Piers Exton; but Henry V. removed his body to Weſtminſter. King Edward IV. gave to Thomas Betts, prior of Langley, and his ſucceſſors, his eſtates here; Henry VII. gave all the manor and park of Langley to Queen Catharine; and Henry VIII. granted to Anne, his queen, all this manor of Langley, with appurtenances, during her life. The prior and convent of the priory at Langley ſurrendered all their lands into the hands of that king at the diſſolution, which was then valued at 127*l.* 14*s.* King Philip and Queen Mary gave and reſtored to this priory all the ſite and houſes which belonged to them; but in 1559 it reverted to the crown in Elizabeth's reign, who gave to the Biſhop of Ely all the rectory and lands which were part of the late eſtate, and valued at 40*l.* per annum. King James I. gave to Edward Newport and John Compton and their heirs all the ſite, &c.: that king alſo gave to his ſon, Prince Henry of Wales, all his manor, park, and chaſe; but at his death, without iſſue, it returned to the crown. It then was given to Prince Charles. King Charles I. gave the manors and eſtate to Sir Charles Morriſon to farm; and afterwards Sir Charles granted them to Sir Baptiſt Hicks and his heirs for ever; from Sir Baptiſt they came to different perſons; and at length to Thomas Houlker, Gent., of London; his ſon ſold them to Henry Smith, Gent.

The priory of Dominican or preaching friars was founded here by Roger, ſon of Robert Helle, ſo called from his playing the devil, as it is termed, with the

Welſh. The buildings were afterwards much enlarged, and the revenues increaſed by King Edward I. It was the moſt ſplendid eſtabliſhment of the kind in England.

The rectory is appropriated to the perpetual uſe of the Biſhop of Ely and his ſucceſſors. It was valued at 8*l.* per annum; of which the biſhops have been patrons ſince the Reformation. It was augmented by Biſhop Laney of that dioceſe, who granted to the vicar 36*l.* 10*s.* per annum. The church ſtands on the ſide of a hill, not far from the river, in the deanery of Berkhampſtead, and dioceſe of Lincoln. It conſiſts of a nave, chancel, and aiſles, with an embattled tower at the weſt end. Here are ſeveral ancient monuments, particularly that of Edmund of Langley, ſon of Edward III., who was buried here.

Langley-bury, the ſeat of Long Kingſman, Eſq., was built by Lord Chief Juſtice Raymond, in the reign of Charles II. It ſtands on riſing ground, nearly oppoſite to Hunton Bridge.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

OFFA gave ſix manſions in Hemel Hempſtead, which is ſituated about three miles north of King's Langley, to the monaſtery of St. Alban's; but the other part remained in the poſſeſſion of the Saxon kings, till William the Conqueror gave it to Earl Moreton. In the Confeſſor's reign it was worth 25*l.* a year. The abbots of St. Alban's held the former till the diſſolution, and Earl Morton held the latter till it came to the crown. Henry III. gave it to his brother Richard, who afterwards was King of Almaine and Earl of Cornwall; from whom it came to his ſon, who, in Edward III.'s reign, granted it to the church of Eſſerugg, which he had founded, with all the appurtenances, except the advowſon of the church and his warren there. This town was ſo called from an high hempland, which was probably at that time planted on the hill at the eaſt end of the town. John Waterhouſe, auditor to King Henry VIII., gave that prince a great entertainment at his houſe, which was Hempſtead-bury, the ſeat of his anceſtors; and at his request King Henry incorporated the town with a bailiff, and certain inhabitants, to have a common ſeal; he alſo granted them a market, and a fair annually. The market is now become very conſiderable for wheat. Henſhaw Henley, Eſq., was owner of the

manor in the time of Salmon, who wrote a hiſtory of this county; and his deſcendant, the late Thomas Halſey, Eſq., of Gaddeſden-place, repreſented the county in three parliaments. He died in 1788, leaving two children; Thomas, who died an infant; and the latter, who was his ſole heir, and has lately been married. Hemel Hempſtead is a reſpectable market-town, and ſtands pleaſantly on riſing ground.

The vicarage is in the deanery of Berkhampſtead, and dioceſe of Lincoln; and is rated in the king's books at 16*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* Upon every vacancy the Biſhop of Lincoln nominates, and the dean and chapter of St. Paul, London, preſent the new vicar. The church appears to have been erected in the Norman times, but has been ſince much enlarged. It is built in form of a croſs, and conſiſts of a nave, chancel, tranſept, and ſide aiſles, with a tower embattled, ſurmounted by a ſpire. The charitable donations are few: Mr. Warren, by will, gave 1200*l.* ſtock 3 per cents, in truſt; the dividends to be applied to the ſupport of fifty poor widows, which amount to 7*l.* 10*s.* per annum to each, and to the eſtabliſhment of two free-ſchools, one for thirteen boys, the other for fifteen girls. The trade of this town has been much increaſed lately by the Junction Canal, which runs near it. The population amounted to 2722 under the late act.

Hempſtead-bury, at the bottom of the town, is the property of —— Hilton, Eſq.: it is a neat modern building; the grounds are not extenſive, but very pleaſant. This gentleman is deſcended from the ancient and noble family of Hilton, of Hilton-caſtle, Durham. The eſtate was the property of the Earl of Marchmont, and has been poſſeſſed by various perſons during the laſt century. A ſmall part of the old manſion, where Henry VIII. was entertained, is yet viſible. The eſtate includes the town of Hemel Hempſtead, though its extent is only thirty-four acres and an half.

BOVINGTON.

IN the time of the Conqueror this manor was part of the poſſeſſions which that king gave to Earl Morton, and which afterwards returned to the crown; from whence probably it came to John D'Arcy, who held it in the time of Edward III., when it was called the manor of Weſtbrook. It continued in the D'Arcy family for ſome time; but little is known of it till the reign of Henry VII., when it

came to the poſſeſſion of John Mayne of Aſcot, in the county of Bucks. It continued with that family till it was purchaſed of them by Joſhua Lomax, Eſq., who giving it to his younger ſon, he built a good manſion-houſe here.

The manor of Martials was ſo called from one of its poſſeſſors; it paſſed with the former manor to the ſame perſons till it came to Thomas Lomax, Eſq. This village is ſituated upon a hill. The church is erected in the middle of the town, in the deanery of Berkhampſtead, and dioceſe of Lincoln; it has a ſquare tower at the weſt end, and a ſhort ſpire upon it.

FLAUNDEN.

FLAUNDEN was originally waſte ground in the time of the Conqueror; it belonged to the manor of Hemel Hempſtead, and was afterwards granted to Thomas Flaunden, who, after having much improved it, called it after his name, and it became a village like Bovington, but ſtill remained part of the ſame manor. He erected a ſmall church in the vale by the river. The vicar of Hempſtead finds a curate at Bovington and at this place.

GADDESDEN PARVA.

THIS pariſh was ſo denominated from the vale where the river Gade riſes; it is three miles diſtant from Hemel Hempſtead towards the north, and was held of Earl Morton in the time of the Conqueror. In the Confeſſor's time it was worth 4*l.* per annum: from Earl Morton it came to his ſon Edmund Earl of Cornwall, who granted it for his foundation of Bons Hommes at Aſhridge; they were monks of the order of St. Auguſtine, and were clad in ſky-coloured garments: this ſociety conſiſted of twenty clerks, thirteen of whom were preſbyters. This monaſtery was a houſe of great repute in the time of Edward I., for that king held a parliament here. Theſe Bons Hommes held the monaſtery till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown, and continued there till Queen Elizabeth granted it to Jane Lady Cheyney and her heirs, from whom it paſſed by ſale. In James I.'s reign it was conveyed by indenture tripartite to Thomas Lord Elleſmere, and Sir John Egerton, his ſon, afterwards Earl of Bridgewater, in whoſe poſterity it remains.

The

The manors of Gaddeſden-parva, Aſhridge, and Friſden, were granted by Queen Elizabeth to Jane Lady Cheyney and her heirs; they were afterwards ſold to Ralph Marſhall and heirs; who conveyed them to Randolph Crew, Thomas Chamberlain, and their heirs; from whom they came to Lord Elleſmere and Sir John Egerton, in whoſe poſterity they continue.

The manor of Lucys was ſo called from Sir Jeffery de Lucy, or ſome of his anceſtors, who were lords here; one of them conveyed it to Edmund Earl of Cornwall; and he gave it for the ſupport of the religious houſe which he founded at Efferuge. Sir Robert Dormer held the manor in Queen Elizabeth's reign; and it ſoon after came to Lord Elleſmere as the foregoing.

The rectory is in the deanery of Berkhampſtead, and dioceſe of Lincoln; and is rated at the yearly value of 11*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* in the king's books. The church has a ſquare tower at the weſt end, with a ſpire. In the church are ſome good monuments to the Egerton family, Earls of Bridgewater. The learned phyſician, John de Gaddeſden, was born in this pariſh, and flouriſhed about the beginning of the fourteenth century. He is mentioned by Chaucer, and wrote many treatiſes.

GREAT GADDESDEN.

THIS eſtate belonged formerly to the Earls of Saliſbury; and afterwards paſſed over to the Zouch family; and from them by a female heir to the Hollands, afterwards Earls of Huntingdon. At the death of the laſt earl, who died fighting by the ſide of the Earl of Warwick at the battle of Barnet, it was ſeized by the crown, and by Henry VII. was granted to Thomas Lord Stanley, Earl of Derby. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth the daughters and coheireſſes of Ferdinando Earl of Derby conveyed it to Sir Robert Cecil, who, in the following year, granted it to Sir Adolphus Carey of Berkhampſtead; and by his heireſs it was ſold to the Lord Chancellor Elleſmere; from whom it has deſcended to the Earl of Bridgewater.

The manor of Southall is another lordſhip in this pariſh, which was formerly part of the poſſeſſions of the family of Clerks; from this family it came to Henry Lake of Buckland in Bucks, who in 1658 conveyed it to John Halſey, Eſq., of

Gaddeſden, and Thomas Bampford of Aſhridge; they conveyed it to the Earl of Bridgewater.

Gaddeſden-place is an elegant manſion, which was erected about the year 1773 by the late Thomas Halſey, Eſq.

The rectory is in the impropriation of the Halſey family; it is ſituated in the deanery of Berkhampſtead, and dioceſe of Lincoln. The vicarage is valued at 10*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*; and the Halſey family are patrons. The church ſtands about the middle of the town; it has a ſquare tower, with a ſhort ſpire upon it; and contains ſeveral monuments to the Halſey family. Here are alſo ſome ſmall benefactions.

STUDHAM.

THE manor of Barwith is part of this place, ſituated about three miles diſtant from Great Gaddeſden, northward in the county of Bucks. This manor lies in the county of Hertford, and formerly belonged to the crown, till Henry I. gave it to the priory of Dunſtable, which he founded; and in them it continued till the diſſolution, when it came to the crown. William Belfield, citizen of London, was in poſſeſſion of it in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and in this family it remained a conſiderable time.

FLAMSTED.

THIS pariſh lies upon a hill, about two miles ſouth of Cadington, and was formerly called Verlamſtedt, from its ſituation on the river Ver, and was part of the poſſeſſions of the abbot of St. Alban's. Leofstan, the twelfth abbot, gave it to three knights to defend the country, Thurnot, Waltheof, and Thurman, in the reign of the Confeſſor. But when the Conqueror had ſubdued the realm, he took it from them, and gave it to Roger de Tony, a noble Norman; it was then worth about 12*l.* a year. From the deſcendants of Tony it paſſed by an heireſs in the time of Edward II., named Alice, who married Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick: his deſcendant, the famous earl, being killed near Barnet, fighting againſt

Edward

Edward IV.; his poſſeſſions were ſeized by that monarch; and being afterwards legally claimed by Henry VII., the manor of Flamſted continued in the crown till the 27th of Henry VIII. It was then granted to George Ferrars and his heirs; from his family it paſſed to Edward Peck, ſerjeant at law, and through various other hands. The manor conſiſts of about ſix or ſeven hundred acres of demeſne.

The priory of St. Giles in the Wood was a religious houſe in this pariſh, founded by Roger de Tony, and dedicated to St. Giles: it conſiſted of a prioreſs and ten nuns. It has lately been called Beechwood, from the quantity of beech which grows here. In time, from different grants which were made to this priory, the manor became extenſive; but upon the diſſolution coming to the crown, it was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Page, Knight: he left only one daughter, who married Sir —— Skipwith of Lincolnſhire; he and his wife ſoon after conveyed it to —— Saunders of Puttenham, in this county. His deſcendant, Thomas Saunders, Eſq., made this an excellent ſeat, and the place of his reſidence. He died in 1693, leaving Anne, his only daughter, married to Sir Edward Sebright, in whoſe poſſeſſion it remained.

The rectory of this church is appropriate, and has been from time immemorial in the crown, and farmed for a term of years, the farmers uſually hiring a curate to officiate for as ſmall a ſalary as they could, until James I. granted the reverſion to truſtees, who conveyed it to Mr. Gunſly, then incumbent, in 1618; and the reverſion, after the expiration of a leaſe then in being, from the crown for 42 years, was deviſed to his next heir at law, of whom Thomas Saunders, Eſq., purchaſed it; but this was only part of the tithes: the rectory and other part of the tithes were deviſed to the maſter and fellows of Univerſity College, Oxford, and their ſucceſſors, ordaining by will, that for the future the curate ſhould have a ſalary of 60*l.* per annum, and the maſter and fellows always ſhould appoint the curate. The church is in the deanery of Berkhampſtead, and dioceſe of Lincoln, dedicated to St. Leonard, and ſituated upon a hill; it is rated in the king's books at 41*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum: it conſiſts of a body, chancel, and ſide aiſles, with a tower at the weſt end, and a ſpire. Here are ſome very curious monuments.

This pariſh is very extenſive, containing ſix thouſand acres or more of encloſed land, and the greater part of it lies upon high ground, with a vale in the middle, through which a ſmall rivulet runs, from a place called Row-beech, in Watling-ſtreet; the air is clear and wholeſome, and the place is woody. There is a tradition,

that

that in the infancy of Edward VI. he was removed here by the advice of his phyſicians for ſome time, and reſided in the religious houſe juſt mentioned; there are no remains of the old houſe. The pariſh conſiſts chiefly of arable land, a clay mixed with flint, and in moſt places chalk is to be found.

BERKHAMPSTEAD ST. PETER'S.

THE Saxons anciently called this place Berghampſtedt, becauſe it was ſituated among the hills, berg ſignifying a hill; ham, a town; and ſtedt, a ſeat. In this place the kings of Mercia reſided and kept their court; among whom Withred king of Kent held a council here in 697; from which time the manor remained in the crown till William the Conqueror invaded the iſland, when the caſtle here was appointed to be the place of meeting between the Norman ſovereign and the chiefs who had oppoſed his power, headed by abbot Frederic of St. Alban's abbey. That prince ſoon after violated his oath, ſeized the poſſeſſions of the Engliſh, and divided them amongſt his followers. Berkhampſtead was given to Robert Earl of Morton, his half-brother. In the time of the Confeſſor it was worth 24*l.* The caſtle or palace which the Saxons had erected was by this earl much enlarged and fortified; but his ſon and ſucceſſor, William, having rebelled againſt King Henry I., it was ſeized, with all his other poſſeſſions, and came to the crown, not before the caſtle was razed to the ground. The caſtle was, however, rebuilt in the time of Stephen, or early in the reign of Henry II.; ſo that the demolition was probably only partial. Henry II. granted many privileges to the inhabitants of Berkhampſtead, where he kept his court. The caſtle and honour of Berkhampſtead remained in the crown till the reign of King John, who granted them to Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, Earl of Eſſex, for 100*l.* per annum, with the knight's fee belonging to it. On his death in 1213 they reverted to the crown, or, perhaps, were ſeized by the king in his wars with the barons. About 1216 Lewis Dauphin of France, in conjunction with the Engliſh nobility, whom John's tyranny obliged to apply for foreign aid, attacked this place; and after a ſiege of ſome continuance, the caſtle ſurrendered. Henry III. granted it, with the earldom of Cornwall, to Richard his youngeſt brother, afterwards king of the Romans: he died here in 1272, after the king had granted him a fair annually

here of eight days continuance. At the death of his ſon, who had founded the college of Bons Hommes, the honour and caſtle reverted to the crown, and were in the reign of Edward I. granted to Piers Gaveſton on his marriage with Margaret, daughter of Joan of Acre, the king's ſiſter, which was ſolemnized at this caſtle. Upon the violent death of this nobleman his poſſeſſions and titles devolved to the crown; and in the reign of Edward III. John of Eltham, brother of the king, was advanced to the earldom of Cornwall, and two years after had a grant of the honour, caſtle, and town of Berkhampſtead, with other manors, to the value of 2000 marks per annum; but dying without iſſue in 1336, his eſtates were granted by the king to Edward the Black Prince. Richard, the ſecond ſon of the Black Prince, frequently reſided here. Henry of Monmouth, afterwards Henry V., poſſeſſed them; and from him they came to Henry VI., and to his ſon Henry of Weſtminſter. In the reign of Edward IV. the caſtle and lordſhip were given to John Lord Wenlock. The king's mother, the Ducheſs of York, died here in Henry VII.'s reign in 1496. Since that time the caſtle and honour have deſcended from the crown to the ſucceſſive Princes of Wales. In Queen Elizabeth's reign the caſtle was demiſed for ten years to Sir Edward Carey, by the payment annually of a red roſe; ſhe alſo appointed him high ſteward of this honour and manor, and conveyed to him and his wife and heirs the manſion-houſe, which Sir Edward had built out of the ruins of the caſtle, with the lodge and park, by a rent of 8*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* In the next century the Careys' intereſt in the eſtate was ſold to John Sayer, Eſq.; but in the beginning of the laſt, it was purchaſed by the Roper family. John Roper, Eſq., the preſent proprietor, of Berkhampſtead-place, is the leſſee of the Caſtle eſtate under the Prince of Wales.

Berkhampſtead caſtle was ſituated at the eaſt end of the town; the whole is now nearly in ruins. The works are of a circular form; the walls were about eighteen or twenty feet high; the ditches were wide and deep, and the ramparts remarkably ſtrong. The keep was a tower of a circular form, and was built on the top of a high mount, moated round. Large trees grow there now, and the inner court is an orchard. On the weſt ſide near the rampart runs the ſmall river Bulbourne.

The town of Berkhampſtead is ſituated about thirty miles from London; it is a conſiderable market town; it conſiſts of a handſome broad ſtreet, of ſome length. Here is an alms-houſe, built by Mr. John Sayer and his wife, who endowed it with 1300*l.* for the maintenance of ſix widows. Here is alſo a charity-

ſchool

ſchool and a free grammar-ſchool; the latter is a handſome brick building, well endowed, the king being patron, and the warden of All Souls College viſitor. The ſchool was built in the time of Henry VIII., and incorporated by the ſtyle of maſter, chaplain, and uſher, of Dean Incent's free-ſchool and chantry of Berkhampſtead. In the fourteenth year of Edward III.'s reign two members were returned here to parliament. The honour of Berkhampſtead includes upwards of fifty-five lordſhips and manors, in the counties of Herts, Bucks, and Northampton. The population of Berkhampſtead is about 1690 inhabitants. King James I. made it a corporation, conſiſting of a bailiff and burgeſſes, twelve in number, who were to chooſe a recorder and town-clerk; but the corporation was ſo impoveriſhed by the civil wars, in the ſucceeding reign, that the government fell away, and it has not ſince been renewed. It has a market weekly on Mondays, and three annual fairs, on Shrove Monday and Whit Monday for cattle, and St. James's day for cheeſe. In the reign of King John there were here two hoſpitals for poor and infirm perſons, one dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt; the other, which was appropriated to lepers of both ſexes, was dedicated to St. John the Evangeliſt. There was alſo in this town, in Edward II.'s reign, an hoſpital dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr.

The church is a rectory and rural deanery, ſituated in the deanery of Berkhampſtead, and dioceſe of Lincoln; and is rated at 20*l.* yearly value in the king's books, of which the crown is patron. It is dedicated to St. Peter, and was, according to tradition, built by Richard Torrington in the time of King John; the tower at the weſt end was rebuilt by John Philip. It is built in form of a croſs. The ſepulchral ornaments in this church are very numerous and intereſting. The charities here are very bountiful. King James gave 100*l.*; King Charles 100*l.*; and Prince Charles 100*l.* more; Sir Henry Atkins 200*l.*; and there are various other benefactions for the poor.

Berkhampſtead-place, the ſeat of John Roper, Eſq., was the nurſery for King James's children; it ſtands on a pleaſant eminence adjoining the town. Great part of the building erected by the Careys, was burnt down in Lord Treaſurer Weſton's time, who then lived there. The manſion is an irregular building.

BERKHAMPSTEAD ST. MARY'S.

THIS pariſh is about a mile diſtant from the former to the north, and was probably waſte ground belonging to it. It is omitted in Domeſday-book, and has ſince been improved, taking its name from the ſaint to whom the church is dedicated. It has lately been called Northchurch. There were ſeveral meſnalties here formerly, of which Northcote is the chief, which were in the poſſeſſion of Nicholas de Boſco in the reign of Edward I., who held it of the honour of Berkhampſtead; by marriage of Margaret, his daughter, it came to Thomas Luton. From this family, in whom it remained a ſhort time, Jeremy Hamden came to it, and died in Henry VIII.'s reign. From them it paſſed to William Edlyn, Gent., and his ſucceſſors.

Here were two other meſnalties, called Maudlins and Durrants, which alſo were held of the manor of Berkhampſtead, but which long ſince have been diſmembered and ſold into parcels to different perſons, who now pay rent and ſervices for them at every court held for Berkhampſtead manor. The Kings, Queens, Dukes, and Earls of Cornwall, have been patrons, and had the advowſon and gift of patronage of Northchurch till Queen Elizabeth's reign, when ſhe, by letters patent, granted them to Sir Thomas Bemor, who granted them to Sir Edward Carey, Knight; but now the advowſon is returned to the crown. The rectory is rated in the king's books at the yearly value of 21*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* There were ſeveral chapels of eaſe here, which are now converted into barns.

WIGGINTON.

THIS manor was beſtowed upon Earl Morton by William the Conqueror; and in the Confeſſor's reign was worth 6*l.* It remained in this earl's poſſeſſion till the reign of King John, when it came to the poſſeſſion of Eve Brock and Margaret Wiggeton: Geoffrey de Lucy at that time was lord of the manor, in whoſe name

it remained till Sir Jeffrey de Lucy conveyed it to Sir Henry Corbett, who held it in the twenty-firſt of Henry VII. John Churchill purchaſed it of this family in Queen Elizabeth's reign; then James Williams had it; and after him William Palmer, Eſq. From the Palmers it came to Sir Francis Cheyney; his heir ſold it to Sir Richard Anderſon, Knight; from whom it has deſcended to its preſent poſſeſſor.

Here is a ſmall church, and a chancel divided from it.

COLESHILL, OR STOCK PLACE.

THIS place was formerly a good ſeat belonging to a ſmall manor, called Coleſhill, from its ſituation on a hill of that name, but was originally denominated Old Stock or Stock Place, which in the Saxon ſignifies habitation: it is a hamlet, partly belonging to Amerſham in the county of Bucks, and partly to Beaconsfield in the ſame county; about two thirds lie in Beaconsfield, and the reſt in Amerſham pariſh. It is a member of the county of Hertford, but ſeparated from it by the pariſh of Amerſham: the way which joined this hamlet to Hertfordſhire has from lapſe of time been totally loſt. It is of a quadrangular form, the diameter being rather more than a mile; the ſituation is healthy, as it ſtands high and dry; the ſoil is ſtrong, and not very fertile; ſome part of it is woodland. The ſeat formerly belonged to the great family of the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Eſſex, and was part of the revenue of Humphrey de Bohun in Edward I.'s reign. After them the Brudenell family ſucceeded; and lived here ſucceſſively about two hundred years ſince. Thomas Brudenell, in Henry VII.'s reign, conveyed the manor to William Counſer: after that it came to the poſſeſſion of Edmund Waller, Gent. In the reign of Elizabeth it was conveyed to Sir Baſil Brook, Knight, of Madeley Court, in the county of Salop: he diſpoſed of it for the ſum of 1860*l.* to George Coleſhill, of Iving Hoo Aſton, in the county of Bucks: he was an attorney at law, and demoliſhed great part of the houſe, and with the materials built ſeveral tenements, then ſold what remained of the manor-houſe and lands to James Perrot of Amerſham, who conveyed it to Henry Child of the ſame place. Within this hamlet

ſtood

ſtood an ancient chapel: the foundations of old and very extenſive buildings have been here diſcovered in a field, called Chapelsfield. The moſt conſiderable of this kind were found in a wood, called Brainford Wood, at the entrance into the hamlet on the ſide of Amerſham. It was probably a chapel or oratory belonging to the adjacent greater building. Some curious pavements, in the manner of dice-work, and a few coins, have been found among the ruins.

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